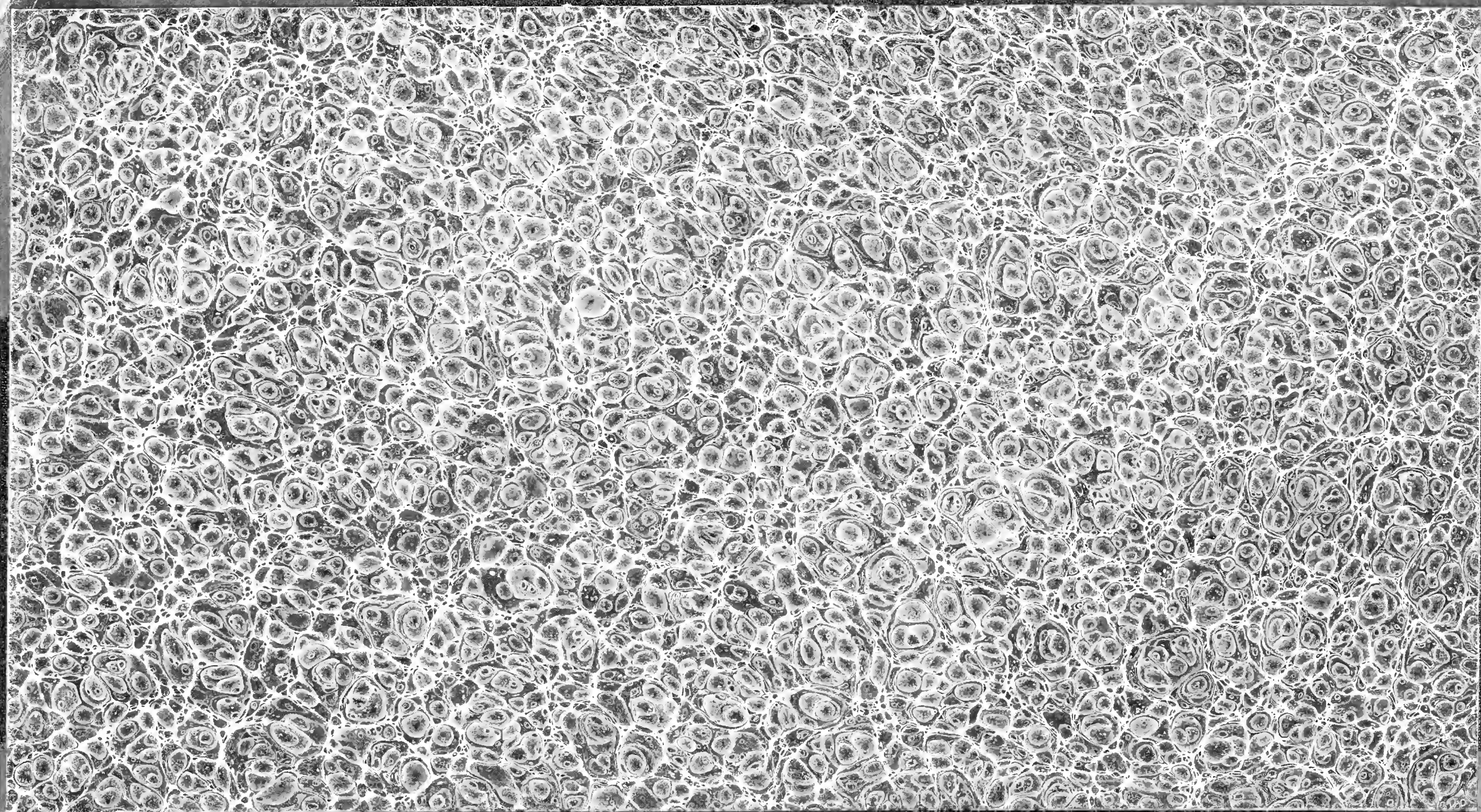

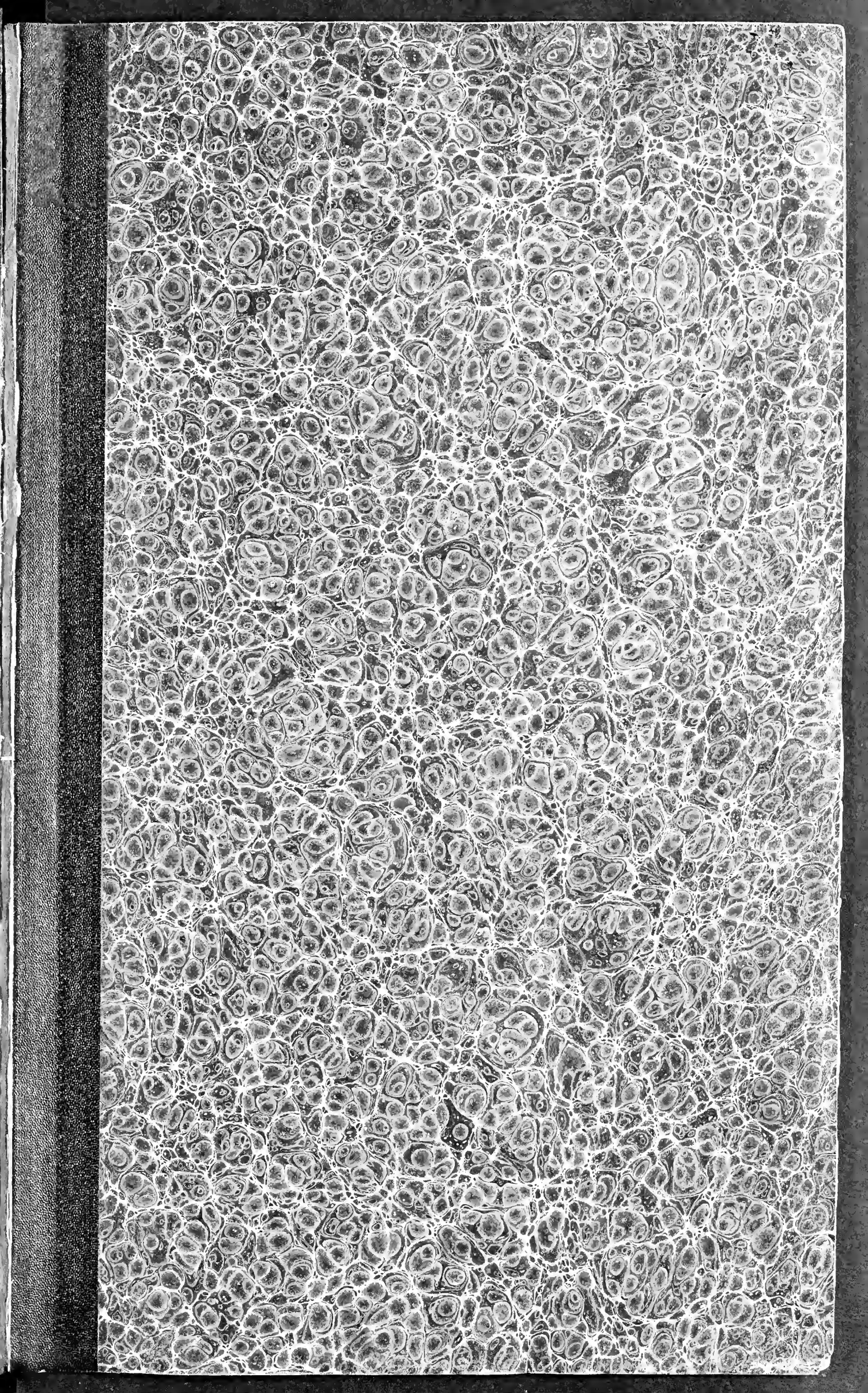

Vol II.

The important systematic notes are copied into "N.E.Birds, Systematic Notes, W.Brewster, Vols.1, 11, 111, 1865-1882."

Walter Deane, June 11, 1898.

Ornithological & Sporting

JOURNAL

of

William Brewster.

Sep. 21, 1874.

Sept. 21 – 1874

Sept. 21 Clear cool & a fine day. In A.M. Mr. Maynard called and stopped to dinner with me. He saw a Nimus polyglottus at Newtonville last evening (Sept. 20): had a good sight at it & from its actions is confidant that it was not an escaped cage bird. In P.M. went into town and saw J.C. Nelson: he has found woodcock quite plenty all through the summer & up to present date has seldom failed to put up from 10 to 12 per day. Since Sept. 6 when he saw the last bird in a corn field they have been altogether on fall ground, principally birch hillsides. As cock have been exceedingly scarce everywhere else he is at a loss to imagine where these have come from as they were not there in July.

Sept. 22 Clear & a most lovely day. Started for the swamps with Ston at 9 A.M. and beat them all carefully for Ch. agilis, finding only two both of which I shot. Small birds of all kinds were very numerous especially D. striata which absolutely swarmed everywhere. I shot a Turdus Aliciae and a y.y. Junco Am. Sitta Canadensis has been very abundant here and I saw several to day. Rails are absolutely swarming in the swamps: every shot that we fired elicited angry cries from all parts of their watery retreats. Saw a flock of

Concord Mass.
Sept. 23 — 1874

least 500 Qus. purpurens flying into the swamps this evening. Yerdus Mig. is unusually abundant this season & swarms of them pass over at sunset heading for their roosts in the swamps.

Sept. 23 Clear & warm. Last night cold the falling to 37°. Rose early & took the 6.30 train for Concord where I met Jim by appointment and after a delay of a few minutes we took a team from the Stable and started North from the town. Beat all that portion of our woodcock grounds, Acton, Robbin's mills, Parker lot Melvins &c. &c. with but poor success, finding only 1 cock & about a dozen grouse. Jim bagged one of the latter and I shot not a single bird of any kind though I fired nine shots at grouse. Had a good tramp however & felt well paid for my trouble by several of those little pleasant episodes which alway occur in a good day in the woods. At one time while beating up a little "run" we heard a succession of loud piercing screams & shrieks as if a child were being subjected to the most diabolical torture. These sounds were continued for several minutes until my curiosity induced me to go to the place a hillside covered with large timber. Approaching cautiously I found a large flock of jays flitting restlessly

Sept. 24 – 1874

about a thick white pine from which the sounds proceeded & when within about 100 yds and immense owl, the largest I think that I ever saw, started from the tree and flew around me through the woods, striking the branches at intervals with its wings and producing so loud a noise that I heard it long after the bird had passed out of sight. What the species was I cannot imagine: it looked larger than the biggest eagle. Reached the town by 6 P. M. & spent the evening talking with Jim. Dan'l G. also dropped in for a half hour or so.

Sept. 24 Clear and not quite so warm as yesterday. Started off immediately after breakfast on foot striking East. Struck first into "Halls" where we put up 7 cock and bagged three of them with a single grouse which I shot off a birch limb. Next beat the causeway run" I bagging another grouse in very thick cover. Then crossed over to the schoolhouse pine where we put up a covey of a dozen grouse & one cock bagging the latter. Last of all we beat "Dam meadow" putting up three cock one of which I killed. Total W. B. 3 cock & 2 grouse J. C. M. 2 cock. Reached the town by 7 P. M. pretty well fagged out.

Concord Mass
Sept. 25 – 1874

Sept. 25 Cold and as hot as in August. I had intended going home this morning but the weather continuing so fine we decided upon another hunt so took the 7.50 train for W. Bedford and beat the whole of the E. Concord ground. Put up 4 cock and 6 grouse. Bagged 1 of the former & 2 inc do. of the latter. Several of the cock left behind yesterday were gone to day which confirms my friends hypothesis that the birds are on "a flight". On Dane meadow I started a ♀ quail which by her actions led me to suspect that she had either eggs or young in the vicinity and on "the schoolhouse ground" the dogs after roading for some time started a pair of old quail. The ♀ ran along in front of "Dodge" rising & flying a few yards at a time until M. no longer able to resist the temptation shot her, and I fired at the cock supposing them young birds & part of a bevy which M. had seen near there. A few moments later the old dog pointed again and our remorse can only be imagined when we found under his very nose a brood of young birds not larger than field mice. However as I luckily made a clean miss on the cock we had good hopes that he would attend to them. While eating our dinner in a cool maple grove by a brook a large hawk (which with some hesitancy

Concord Mass

Sept. 25 - 1874

I pronounced Astur atricap.) came dashing overhead and plunged into a flock of robins but missed his aim; making a quick turn he shot with the speed of lightning across the small opening and seized an unfortunate Colaptes among some wild apple trees dropped immediately to the ground with his prize. The poor bird when caught uttered loud cries of anguish which though continually growing fainter were kept up unremittingly for at least five minutes. Going to the spot about half an hour after we started the hawk from the ground and picked up the head and neck of his victim, all that remained. Twice during the day a grouse passed us flying silently but very swiftly and evidently having taken wing voluntarily from one feeding ground to another. Small birds have been very abundant all these days. Among others I noted several Chaetura agilis, one of which I started among some thick bushes on a hillside; their note is I think almost precisely like that of S. Phil. To day I saw a brood of Cyanos. Cyanea I heard the full song from the adult ♂. Vireo gilvus sings every morning for a half hour or more in front of the court house. Called on Mrs. Buttrick in the evening.

Middlesex Co. Mass.

1874

Sept. 26 Clear and warm. Came down from Concord this morning and spent the day in the house writing &c.

28

8

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

1874

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Oct. 3 Clear cool and a fine day. Spent the forenoon in the house feeling rather under the weather in consequence of a severe cold. At 3 P.M. J. C. Melvin came out bringing dog & gun, & as I was quite anxious to see his old Prince hunt I decided to risk an addition to my cold so started with him for the meadows. We found only one snipe on the lower meadows but upon arriving at the Block island ground we found a number of boys & men banging away at the birds which were quite numerous. We must have seen twenty five in all and as many as six flying together. Fired 8 or 10 shots & pinned without bringing a feather to bag though we killed a teal (N. Carolina I think) which fell across a ditch & was stolen by some boys which we were going round. All the snipe lay remarkably well & we had some good chances, in one instance six rising separately from one spot giving us time to change shells between the shots.

Snipe Shooting
Oct. 5 — 1874 —

1874
Oct. 5 Clear with a bracing N. wind. Rose at 5.30 and getting a light breakfast I met Nesbitt by appointment at his house and started for the swamps in taking Belle & I shot. In the Brickyard swamp he flushed a snipe & I killed a solitary sandpiper and two rails. One of the latter was sitting in bush two feet or more above the water enjoying the morning sun: as I fired at him another ran quickly across a little channel & from the momentary glympse that I had of it I was quite positive that it was P. noveboracensis: here I also saw a wood duck which rose at the report of the gun. Our attention was now attracted to the big meadows by repeated firing in that direction & approaching them from the artificial side we found them occupied as on Saturday with a mob of pot hunters armed with long muskets &c. who were putting up the birds in all directions. However by marching down thru birds into adjacent meadows we soon began to get some sport and moreover in a short time most of them began to leave & we had the whole ground to ourselves. By 12 the birds became so badly scattered that we gave them up and started for home. My bag was, Snipe 16, grass bird 1, sol. sand 1, Rail 3, Nesbitt had 5 snipe (2 were drawn birds which I count in both bags). Shot behaved admirably & made several fine points. The snipe

1874

Oct. 6 — 1874

were nearly all I think flight birds which had dropped in last night for I found signs in only one or two places: they lay remarkably well and flew very strong. We found two or three of our birds on some spring ground near A. Hill's. Here I shot a very large bird which after being just up once or twice had dropped into a field of standing corn. Saw Anthus ludovicianus and shot Tringa maculata & E. fuliginosus. Saw numbers of R. coronata yesterday It is I think this first arrival.

Oct. 6 Clear and warm. Spent most of the day in town. J. Nesbitt beat the meadows this morning without seeing a snipe or indeed any bird worth shooting at. Regulus satrapa and Certhia familiaris arrived to day.

Oct. 7 Cloudy with chill E. wind. Started for the meadows at about 9 A.M. Beat the whole of the large marshes near Block island without seeing a bird though in two places I found fresh signs of snipe. On the way back went through the brickyard swamp very thoroughly and had fine sport bagging 6 rail & 2 snipe in 8 shots. Shot pointed several of the rail & behaved well as usual. I think one

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Oct. 7 – 1874

of the rail that we get at this season are flight birds from the N. as their numbers vary greatly on different days but under that hypothesis it is not a little singular that I have never seen them migrating while lying for ducks in the dusk of the evening when all the other nocturnal birds are moving about. Last night I saw 5 Nyc. Gardenii flying over our place. I have not seen one in the swamps for a week or more. In a letter from my friend Melvin I am informed that he flushed 8 cock at Concord on the 5th & the same number the day previous. I secured a very fine fall specimen of Cistothorus palustris this morning: it was very tame & its chatter was much like that of T. aedon. D. striata is getting scarce and Lan. ludovicianus abundant. Mel. palustris still warms in the swamps. I have not seen a single Rallus Vir. this fall: they must have gone as a rule very early in Sept. P. Carolina when pursued by a dog swims without hesitation over the deepest ditches & is at times very difficult to flush.

Oct 8 Cloudy with high E. wind. Started for the swamps at 8 in company with Messrs Storer & Barstow, taking Shot. In the Brickyard swamps I bagged three (3) rail & 1 snipe: also started a Bittern (B. lentiginosus) which

1874. Oct. 8 — 1874

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Shot pointed as shadily as a woodcock. Striking into the large meadows Shot came to a most beautiful point ~~first~~ before we got within range two snipe rose wild & went off unshot at. As the dog still held his point I hurried up ~~just~~ in time to knock over a third bird which got up in front of him. Further on we started three snipe (two of them marked down birds) and I bagged one of them which B. started & wounded slightly. On the way back we went through the lower swamps again & I bagged 1 rail & S. & B. another, between them. Total W.B. 3 snipe & 4 rails S. & B. 1 rail — 8 birds. The snipe were all very wild and flew extremely fast. Passed a half hour or so ~~sitting~~ on the margin of Pout pond & admiring its beauties. Saw only one duck an R. Obscura.

Oct. 9 Clear and a fine day with W. wind. Started alone for the swamps at 9.30 taking Dart, as Shot has injured one of his eyes slightly. Beat the upper meadows first but saw only a brace of rail both of which I bagged. On the way back started and shot a coot (Fulica) and also put up three snipe all of which rose out of distance; marking down one of them I followed him and ~~catching~~ sight of him over a bush had a fine opportunity of watch him unobserved. He was sitting upright on a little mud

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Oct. 9 — 1874

bank in a watchful attitude but everything remaining quiet he soon raised one leg and twisting himself on the other drew in his neck until his head rested between his shoulders and thus remained for a long time with half closed eyes dozing in the sunshine. Occasionally he would give a start shake his feathers and turning his head one sideways, listen as I imagined for the movement of some possible earthworm under the sand. At length becoming wearied with his inaction I began walking cautiously towards him when he immediately straightened up for a moment then half crouching with bill raised to about the angle at which it had been previously lowered (45 deg) stood ready for a spring. At every step I took forward he bowed his body a trifle more until finally with deficient scaipe, his last on earth, he sprang into the air. Bag as follows. Rail 2, Snipe 1, Coot 1. The bars in the swamps commenced falling to day and many maple groves which yesterday were luxuriant with crimson foliage are now nearly as bare as in winter. Saw Frog. hyemalis yesterday; also two Chry. Finns. Last night it rained heavily and our bett meadows are now altogether too wet for snipe. Saw a pair of black ducks this morning. No tit larks for some time. Sparrows still numerous. Scot. fernigin appeared in numbers to day. Robins getting rare

1874.

Oct. 10 Cloudy & warm most of the day. Spent the afternoon in town. R. Dean went up on the meadows this morning but saw no snipe. Heard Junco hyemalis this evening.

Sunday
Oct. 11 Clear & a lovely autumn day, with S. wind. In forenoon took a drive through Waverly up into the willows and back over the hill by way of Prospect St. Saw Juncos in numbers, one large flock of L. striata and many straggler, a few Pooecetes gramineus and numbers of robins. Saw also ~~a~~ Circus Hudsonius & a very fine Buteo borealis sitting on a locust tree near the road. I forgot to note a flock of 10 Anfulis cedrorum which I saw in the swamps on the 7th inst.

Oct. 13 Cloudy & cold. Took the 2.15 train for Concord yesterday and spent the night at the French's. This morning Dan & I took a row up N. Branch without a gun. A short distance above Egg rock we came suddenly upon a Wilson's Snipe and almost at the same instant a brace of wood duck (one a magnificent drake) came rushing down the steep bank and launching into the water not near the canoe watching us. The next moment all three took wing, two of them keeping on up river while the wood

Middlesex Co., Mass.

drake hit and immediately took to the shore and up the bank again into the bushes. Following the others we started the duck from among the bushes on shore and then came upon the scaup as he was hiding among some rushes. He was very tame and we paddled up within ten yards of him before he would fly. He swam very low in the water ~~kept~~ twitching his tail sideways with great rapidity & his head & neck looked disproportionately large & thick. When he flew he trailed his feet on the water for a few yards then as he cleared the surface raised them up behind under his tail. Had also a very fine shot at an immature Buteo which hovered over some sparrows within twenty yds of us. Coming back saw a single Pes. ibacen (the first) and numbers of Chay. James, also a ~~single~~ Pod. Podiceps near the rock. After a lunch with Dan. took the 1.35 train home. Arrived at the house changed my things as rapidly as possible and started for the swamps with Shot. Beat the upper meadows without success but in the lower put up 5 snipe and bagged ~~2~~ 1 a rail. Shot very poorly ~~missing~~ 6 shots. The snipe was rather wild but did some very handsome work drawing steadily up to a brace of snipe for 30 yds or more, giving me a fine double which I missed most disgracefully.

1874.

bag in the swamp till after dark for ducks but saw none. While sitting on a tussuck watching the deepening shadows a rail rose some distance off of its own accord and passed by me flying in the usual slow way with dangling legs. I had supposed they acted differently at such times but now had a chance to observe before. Large flocks of Scol. ferrugineus came in to roost at dusk. Numbers of ducks killed on the pond Monday

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Oct. 14 Cloudy. Very cold last night thermt at sunrise this morning standing at 28°. Started for the swamps at 6 taking Shot. Beat the upper meadows first when in company with a boy which I sent I flushed 7 snipe. They were quite wild but Shot did good work making a number of points. On the way down beat the Brickyard swamps and put up 3 more snipe. Shot most wretchedly firing 16 shots & bagging only 3 snipe & a coot (Fulica) My companion killed 2 snipe. Took also an Ann. candacutus & a ♂ Ag. phoeniceus in full pl. Sparrows of all kinds have been trebled in numbers since yesterday & I saw also Anthus Ludovic. Cis. stellaris (?) & Regulus calendula. Saw a Fulica Am swimming out in deep water on the pond. D. coronata very abundant this morning.

Woodcock Shooting

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Oct. 15 – 1874

Oct. 15 Clear and a perfect Autumn day, sharp frost at sunrise and warm mellow atmosphere at noon. Having received an invitation yesterday from my friend Melvin to try the woodcock at Concord I took the 6.15 train this morning and arriving at C. found M. waiting for me at the station with a team. We started immediately for Acton where we commenced our beat taking in by noon all that ground, Melvins farm, Parker lot &c. At its finish we had put up 9 cock & bagged 7. Starting for town we drove rapidly for the East ground eating lunch by the way to save time. Reaching Dana meadows by 2 P. M. we put up the horse in a shed and struck into the cover at once, and after some most glorious sport we finished at Halls just as the sun was setting. During the afternoon we put up 12 birds & killed 10. Making a total as follows. Birds put up 21 – Bag of W. B. 10 cock (1 shot by both) 1 grouse & 1 rabbit. Bag of J. C. M. 9 cock (1 shot by both) Total bag 17 woodcock, 1 grouse, 1 rabbit. The day being a fine one for scent both dogs worked finely. I not put up only 1 bird without pointing and then I left him on a bird and made a long circuit in order to get a better shot when the bird rose. Double birds rose three times during the day but in neither instance were both killed. We both shot unusually well getting

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1874.

nearly all our birds at the first rise but late in the afternoon the setting sun shining into our eyes caused several bad muffs as at that time the gun barrels reflected a perfect flood of light when raised to the shoulder. The woodcock as a rule rose rather lazily but many of them flew a surprising distance. One very large bird which we had put up several times without getting a shot at, was at length driven out to me by M. and gave me a good cross shot at 20 yds but owing to the dazzling sunlight above mentioned I was unable to see him at all upon raising my gun & consequently missed clean with both barrels. Being in a good position to mark him I ~~saw him~~ pass high over a large tract of birches where we had first found him & then wheeling ~~up~~ over a tall oak grove I just caught a glympse of his wings as he dropped in an open beyond at least 500 yds from the spot where I stood. Following him up I got a fine point from Shot and flushing him killed him cleanly at 25 yds. With the exception of two all the birds that we started were in birch hillsides and as a rule on the very outskirts of the thickets. They averaged quite large in size and in every instance whistled as they rose. Nelson has

a theory that at this season they run & feed all over the thicket ~~that~~ which they are found and I was quite firmly impressed with that idea to day as the dogs seemed to find scent everywhere in those covers when we started birds and in no place did we find droppings concentrated to that extent which they are when the cock is resident upon the locality. Saw Spizella monticola in numbers, for the first time.

Oct. 16 Clear and rather warm. Started in my buggy at 9 A.M. with H. Gardner and drove up to the Warren run. Beat for two or three hours but saw nothing except three or four grouse, and find only one shot the whole morning. Saw a single Agiothus linaria and several Dend. palmarum which by the way I noticed for the first time yesterday at Concord when several small flocks were observed. Got back to the house at about 2 P.M. E. Ingersoll got ~~back~~ last night. Saw about 200 Notothlypis peregrina and shot 4.

Oct. 17 Clear and warm with S. wind. Started for the Warren run at 8 A.M. taking Dart. Hunted a little & put up three grouse but spent most of my time collecting. Took 7 D. palmarum 1 Vireo solitarius and 2 Turdus pallasii. Saw also Parula Am. D. coronata (not many) Regulus

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1874

calendula, R. satrapa, Lox. albiollis, Poocetes gram (numbers) & Spiz. pusilla (several). Saw numbers of S. pallasii; they were unusually active & noisy and uttered in addition to the chuck a plaintive whee, whee, which I never heard at this season before. Junco hyemalis is now excessively abundant and I saw flocks of 50 or more to day. The chirp of D. palmarum is not unlike that of D. discolor or D. aestiva, & quite different from that of coronata. Buteo borealis is beginning to appear over its old haunts. Autumn is perhaps now at its fullest perfection and the woods are everywhere perfect canopies of gold, russet and crimson.

Sunday
Oct. 18

Cloudy & warm. Taking a walk in our garden after breakfast I found it literally full of birds, Juncos & robins predominating. Several Turdus pallasii were hopping about under the pear tree & one of them commenced uttering the note heard yesterday but the air being very still & heavy with moisture it had a slightly different sound and while listening to it, it suddenly came over me like a revelation that this was the note which I have so often heard at night in Me. & on Fresh Pond of a frosty Oct. morning while waiting for the ducks to come in. A few moments of careful attention & criticism convinced

one of the correctness of the impression and I was delighted to have at last solved the mystery. I also had a great treat in the song of a ♂ Regulus Calendula which although not so finished as the Spring note was decidedly sweeter & richer in its varied warblings. Hearda Sitta Canadensis the first since Sept.

Oct. 20 Clear and cold, water freezing to the thickness of window glass. Rose at 6 and taking a light breakfast of graham bread with a cup of tea, started for the meadows. In the Brickyard swamps put up two (2) Rails (Rallus Virginianus) and 1 Snipe and filled them all the first time. On the upper meadows did not succeed in finding a single bird though Shot "drew" continually and droppings, many of them quite fresh, were in abundance. A young man whom I met had been over the meadow yesterday morning without seeing any birds though he had noticed abundance of "signs". On the 15 he put up 13 Snipe & on each of the two following days 6 respectively. Saw the first Euspiza Americana a flock of 10. Also in the pine swamps saw a Picus villosus & a Sphyrapicus varius both of which were very shy. Took a Trog. hyemalis ♀ & Regulus Calendula and saw several others of both species, also an Agelaius phoeniceus apparently a male in full plumage. Chry. pinus is now very abundant & a single

1874

Aug. linaria was again noted. The migration of the Sparrows, D. coronata, Scol. hyemalis and Scolix sialis is still at its height. Have seen no D. striata for several days and think they were passed by. Many Single Ann. Candacentus in the lower swamp & now I hear that it is of regular occurrence on our fresh water meadows. The appearance of Rallus Vir. at so late a date is of especial interest: they must be migrants from the N. as I am convinced that there have been none in the swamps during the past month. No ducks on the pond this morning as I am informed by one who was on the ground at daylight. The leaves in the maple swamps are now all down and Pout pond lately so beautiful looks as drear as in November.

Oct. 21 Cloudy with showers in A.M. clearing off beautifully by noon. Had an engagement to shoot quail with Nesbitt & the Taylor brothers but the latter failing to appear started at 1 with N. alone; we were however driven back by the rain & returned to dinner. At 2 P.M. made another start and put up my horse at Brown's. Beat up the "Cotton Run" and near its head Dart found a large boy in a swamp & of them Nes each killed a bird. Leaving them Dart "loaded" &

another bevy of about a dozen birds & pointed them handsomely in the open stubble. I made a clean double shot as they rose, & killed 2 more in the cover. N. also got two from them making a total of 8 grouse, 5 of which went to my bag. The old dog worked very handsomely and pointed every bird readily. Saw numbers of Ag. Anaria & C. pinus.

Oct. 22 Clear and a lovely day. Took the 11.50 train for W. Bedford and striking over to Dana meadow beat through all the woodcock ground to Concord where I took the 6.35 train home. On Dana meadow shot ran up 2 cock which were lying literally within a yard of each other, though the second bird did not rise until the first had been retrieved. I bagged both of them in two shots. In the Alder hedge I met Humph. Buttrick with a Mr. Barrett from Boston. They had started only 2 cock and had killed some grouse & quail. Finding that they had beaten nearly all the best ground I ran through the remainder very hastily without seeing a feather. When near Concord however I came across a little artificial trout pond in the woods* and approaching it cautiously I surprised a pair of wood ducks feeding under the shore and after watching them for some time killed both with one shot. They were in a remarkably playful

* Some Hoard found in "Fairy land," then not long established, as such.

SS (Middlesex Co.)
1874.

mood and repeatedly chased one another about lashing the water with their wings. I found their crops literally crammed with large "hog" acorns which when the bird was shaken produced a rattling sound audible at some distance. Here I also saw a water beetle of the largest size, clinging to the tops of some swamp grasses and endeavoring mainly to take wing. I think this spring is the author of many of the large ripples that one see at the surface of ponds of a calm morning. Total bag woodcock 2 - wood duck 2

Oct. 23 Clear and cool with E. wind. Took the first train to Concord where I met Melvin at the depot by appointment. Drove up to Acton where we tied and commenced our beat. By noon we had bagged 3 cock 2 grouse & 1 quail. Then drove back to town and down to the foot of the great meadows where we started 3 snipe 2 of which were shot. Thence we proceeded to the corner of the Virginia road where M. started a bevy of 8 quail which occupied our attention till dark. My bag was 2 grouse 1 cock 1 snipe & 3 quail. Melvin 1 grouse 2 cock, 2 quail & 1 snipe. Thus for the first time I killed all the Mass. game birds in one day. Four woodcock were started in all and every bird was of very small size. The bevy of quail found in Acton was marked

down in an open huckleberry pasture but the old hen which Shot found & pointed was the only bird that we could find with our two dogs though I am confidant that we must have passed many times within a few yards of some of them. We started about 15 grouse in all the greatest number seen this year at Concord. Shot behaved very poorly making multitudes of false points and running over most of his birds. The first woodcock that I started I lost most exasperatingly by snapping both barrels of my empty gun having forgotten to put in the shells but I afterwards found & killed him. Anthus Ludovicianus was all over the great meadows in flocks & dingy.

Oct. 24 Clear and cool with E. wind. In P.M. drove Barstow up to Belmont and sat in the buggy while he hunted old Dart, not wishing to walk myself as I sprained one of my legs slightly yesterday. He flushed three grouse & a heron (Ardea herodias) but did not get any of them. Saw a flock of Picus villosus near the road on his afterwards coming up. Shot it for me.

Oct. 26 Clear warm and still. Started off after breakfast with C. Carter and tied on

1874.

Prospect St. Old Dart struck the scent of a bevy before we had beaten 500 yds and after roading them handsomely for 1/4 of a mile came down to his point on the edge of a little meadow. Getting him on with much difficulty a bevy of at least 25 birds got up. I had a good double shot but only killed one bird. C. fired both barrels without success. Following them up I killed two more and a grouse. ~~C. fired~~ Total quail 3, R. grouse 1. Charlie killed 1 quail. The bevy scattered so badly when it first rose that we only found a very few of its numbers again. Saw numbers of Ar. linaria in the birches. Reached the house by 10 A.M. Took a drive in P.M. & stopping a few moments at dusk near the Block island meadow I heard at least two snipe & I thought more.

Oct. 27 Morning clear but cloudy with light showers in the afternoon. Very warm & close. Spent the forenoon in the house. At 2 P.M. started off with Charlie C. & Barston for a quail shoot and after putting up our horses, Charlie's at Cotton's and mine at Brown's, we struck up the run. Started nothing for a long time except two grouse one of which I killed by a hard snap shot through scrub oaks. After hunting on

Oct. 27. hour or so more without success Dart struck the track of the large boy behind Cottons and roading them out into the open drew to a noble point just on the crest of a little hill. Though the cover underneath was good (thick matted weeds) the birds got up rather wild and only one was shot which all three of us unfortunately fired at together, I being off to one side got in only one barrel. Following them into the Brush Charlie got nearly all the shots and killed 3 birds. I shot another grouse which C. drove over my head. It was apparently utterly exhausted by its long flight as it lit in a little oak tree immediately after my shooting at it on wing, when I killed it sitting. Charlie also flushed a woodcock which taking an extraordinary long flight passed over us & was missed by B. The quail were very wild & lay but poorly which I have always noticed is the case on dark rainy days or in falling snow. I forgot to note under date 23rd that a cock which we started in a small clump of birches adjoining a potato field had been feeding all over said field as evinced by numerous chalk marks & borings: on such a season as this when all the birds without exception are found on high dry ground this fact is of especial interest. Heard Crow. Also Red-winged Blackbirds on our garden this morning. Juncos & Sparrows getting scarce.

1874.

Oct. 30 — 1874

Oct. 29 Clear and warm with strong S. wind. Met J. C. Melvin at C. Carter's by appointment and started for Belmont at 2 P.M. Spent the whole afternoon hunting the "runs" behind Cotton's, for quail, without seeing a feather of any kind. Left M. at Belmont when he took the train for Concord

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Oct. 30 Clear and cool with N. W. wind. Off after breakfast with C. Carter who furnished the team which we left on Mill St. Spent the whole day beating for quail with but poor success. In the swamp behind Chenery's we flushed two grouse one of which I bagged after firing three shots at her. Left we hunted all the runs behind Cottons without moving anything except two grouse. From there we struck on into a vast tract of woodland behind Rice's which I never visited before. In this place I shot a fine ♀ Nyctale Acadica which started from a low bush within a yard of my head and flying a few rods lit in the top of a high leafless birch tree. After watching it a few moments I walked back a few paces to be sure of getting a good specimen and fired but to my great disgust it went off unhurt. Marking carefully the direction I followed and again it started from a low bush under which I was passing and lit in a birch top as

1874

Oct. 30 before. This time I was fortunate enough to secure it. It sat erect like all the owls and looked much larger than it in reality was. Indeed I at first mistook it for Scops Asio. Its flight was slow, flickering and apparently feeble and in neither instance did it go more than 20 yds. Upon dissection I found its body cased in fat. The stomach contained the remains of a large mouse, I think Arvicola. Here we also flushed a bevy of about 15 quail with C.'s dog found but they took to such bad cover that we gave them up without bagging a bird though C. fired six shots & I two. While eating lunch a very brown Collurio borealis lit on an apple tree near us and I fired at it without success. During the afternoon we hunted hard without any finds until just at dusk when Shot came to a fine point on a woodcock Capt. backing him a short distance off. Calling C. up the bird a very large one rose and ~~to~~ giving it thru barrels we distinctly saw it fall in some alders within 25 yds of where we stood. Upon putting in the dogs they could find nothing but after several minutes search Shot commenced roading a strong scent which he followed 30 yds or more out into a meadow. Keeping well up with him I was much surprised to see the bird rise as strong

1874

Oct. 30 and roll as one from among the tussocks and soar up over the alders with his loud shrill whistle until my charge brought him broken winged to the earth. Picking him up I was admiring his beautiful plumage and bright hazel eye when he struck the air forcibly several times with his uninjured wing producing at each blow a note of the characteristic whistle, and producing it indisputably with his wing. This latter occurrence I have witnessed before but have never I believe recorded it. The migration of sparrows warblers &c. has nearly entirely passed. P. ilicea is however with us in moderate numbers (they are very scarce this year) and a few P. coronata are still left. Tyrannus Pallasii still frequent. W. B. Grosbeak 1. ~~Saw 4 Nyc. Gardenii in Prof. Lowell's place.~~

Oct. 31 Clear and warm. Spent the day working on the birds shot yesterday. Late in P.M. took a walk up to Mt. Auburn and while returning around the back side of Prof. Lowell's place I was rather surprised to see five Nycticorax Gardenii fly out of the large pine near the road. I think it has been a regular haunt of theirs through the autumn as I have heard their cries on several occasions after sunset proceeding from the same spot.

1874.
Nov. 4

West Barnstable, Mass.
Nov. 4th 1874

With Messrs. Melvin Carter & Buttrick I took the 4 P. M. train on the C. C. R.R. yesterday P.M. and arrived at Capt. Baxter's at about 8; upon we were warmly welcomed by the old gentleman and his pleasant family. I took down my setter "Shot", ~~and~~ Jim M. his two pointers "Lizzie" and "Prince", and Charlie C. his pointer "Captain." Buttrick took no dog. Rose this morning at daybreak to find the sky cloudless and the earth covered so thickly with hoarfrost that the country looked as if covered with a light fall of snow. We all started off immediately for a trip before breakfast, Charlie & I striking inland and Jim M. with Buttrick taking the river. They came in with 2 quail & a teal (N. Carolinensis) but we saw nothing but 2 grouse one of which I shot at. After breakfast we all five started off together taking the old Osterville route. At "the shop" we struck a bevy of about 15 birds and as they rose shot down 5 of them. And I killed 2 more in the brush. Our next find was at "the Granny and" where I got up a bevy of about 25 large birds, and we bagged 6 of them altogether. On the way home I found a bevy of 8 birds none of which were killed and struck the bevy at the shop again where we killed 2. Total bag. W. B. quail 7, Melvin quail Carter Buttrick

Total Quail 17, Grouse 1, Teal 1

Nov. 4 - 1874

1874
Nov. 5 Clear with rather strong S. wind. Off together after breakfast (Milvin & Buttrick were out before without starting a feather) striking N. towards W. Barstable propr. Shot found the first bevy in a swamp near the stage road, and pointed them handsomely. As they rose I killed with my first barrel and Buttrick also dropped one; a third, which was proberbly my second bird, towering at least 100 ft and then falling to the ground was picked up alive & shot through the head. This bevy although a very large one acted so badly after taking to the scrub that we got only one more shot which I find (& missed). The next bevy was walked up by Buttrick among some pitch pines and from it he killed 3 birds & Milvin 1. These birds lay very well but seemed to give out no scent at all not a single point being made on any of them. The third & last bevy I shot roaded in fine style for at least 200 yd. but the cover was so very bad that a single bird which I killed was the only one scored. Although our team of dogs is so strong we nevertheless pass at least two thirds of the birds we come to, judging from the signs that we find in nearly every field. Capt. B. says that the birds are more in the woods now than in Oct. & consequently are harder to find. W. B. quail 3. M. quail 1, Butt. quail 4, grouse 1, Carter grouse 1. Total 8 quail - 2 grouse. I felt very poorly & shot badly.

West Barnstable Mass.
Nov. 6 – 1874

1874.
Nov. 6 Clear and a lovely day with rather high N. wind. Bullrick & Nelson went out before breakfast but did not fire a shot. We all started at about 8 taking the Osterville route. At "the shop" had a quail whistle loudly and upon reaching the place all the dogs came down handsomely on the scent but after roading it for some 200 yds they all lost it and we had to give the birds up. I think the birds scattered & ran in all directions, finally either taking wing or flitting up into the trees. We next struck the graveyard ground where Charlie found a bevy of 8 birds of which we killed 5. These were not the same as they found on the 4th as they were not more than two thirds grown. Here while forcing my way through some stunted pine shrubs on a high hill, I started a sparrow which I at once recognized by its peculiar flight as Ct. Henslowii and changing my shells I flushed it again and shot it. It was a beautiful specimen in fall plumage new to me and proved on dissection a ♀: the body was fairly coated in fat. The fact of its occurrence in such a locality & at so late a date must be one of great interest. Shortly after this I lost my companions and was separated from them three or four hours. At last however was guided to them by their firing at a small bevy of 10 quail which Nelson started, and from which 2 birds

1874
Nov. 6. were killed. From this place we struck over to "11 acre field" when a bevy of at least 30 large quail rose wild out of the road and struck into the worst scrub that I ever saw even on the Cape. Then we followed them until dark but they behaved so very badly, rising out of range, running hundred of yards immediately after being scattered, & taking to the trees that we bagged only two birds. Total W. B. quail 2, Buttrick quail 4 grouse 2, Melvin quail 2.
Packed up this evening for a start home to-morrow morning.
Crossbills (C. am) Sitta Canadensis, and Chrysom. pinus are all very abundant here the two first species more so than I ever saw them around Cambridge. Saw also one very fine ♂ icus vitellinus to day and a flock of Erismophila cornuta. Snipe (G. wils) have taken up their winter quarters along the river and we also heard Porzana Carolina in the same locality yesterday. Sturnella magna was abundant as usual. Saw Circus Hudsonicus nearly every day and started one from a clump of bushes where it was apparently watching some domestic fowls that were basking in the sun within a few yards seemingly unmindful of its presence.

Nov. 7 Left W. Barnstable at 7 & arrived in Boston by noon.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Nov. 9 — 1874

Nov. 9 Cloudy with damp S. wind. After breakfast took a turn up on the farm, collecting. Took Curr. Am 4, Sitta Carolinensis 4, & Junco hyemalis 1. Saw a very fine ♂ Sitta Canadensis. The S. Carolin. now paired as usual and when one was shot its mate showed considerable solicitude. The other species dissolves all conjugal connection after the breeding season. Saw several Certhia familiaris and Regulus satrapa. Parus atricap was in unusual abundance. A few Juncos are still about and Pas. iliaca is quite numerous. Chry. tristis are common in small flocks but have seen no Chry. pinus for some time. Ag. hiaria has also apparently disappeared. Saw two birds flying on our place this morning which utered a note entirely new to me. I think they must have been Ph. Lapponicus. Curvirosta Am. has two notes one the ordinary call and another chaser & more bell like. Those that I shot comprised all the numbers of a flock. They were very tame and so fat that they made rather poor specimens. One which I wing tipped I took home alive and it is doing very well on a diet of canary seed and cold water. In the cedars above Grandi I shot a ♀ Grouse from a tree. She sat perfectly motionless with outstretched neck & feathers drawn very close.

Nov. 13 — 1874

Nov. 13 Clear & very cold. Thm 20° at sunrise. The past three days have been most sad ones to us. Mother died at 20 minutes before 1 on Tuesday morning and we accompanied her remains to the grave yesterday afternoon. Seeking rest and consolation when I knew most surely I could find it — in Nature — I started off with my gun and dogs immediately after breakfast this morning. While driving up Willington hill I spied a bevy of quail basking in the sun in a little sheltered nook by the roadside and quickly tying my horse I followed them up and in the course of the forenoon bagged 5. Shot behaved very handsomely and made some staunch points. Singularly enough when they rose the first time about half the bevy lit in an open mowing field, while a most excellent cover lay on other side of them. With the exception of one bird I killed all that I could find, for they lay very close though they apparently entirely withheld all scent. Shot also a shrike which flew over me and heard some Cuvirostra Am. Saw numbers of Ehry. tristis, Pas. iliaca and a few Mel. melodia. Reached the house by 1.30 P.M.

Total bag Quail 5.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1874
Nov. 14 Clear and cold. Ther. 18° at sunrise. Off after breakfast taking Shot. Drove up into Prospect St. where I tied and beat the Cotton runs for quail all the forenoon, but did not move anything except two grouse and a bird which puzzled me completely. The latter I came across in this wise: Shot had been following a scent for some distance and I was hurrying through some second growth oak & birch trying to keep as near him as possible when a bird apparently of a dark slate color and it seemed to me nearly as large as a turkey rose with a prodigious whirring & flutter from under my very feet, certainly within 4 feet of me. I was so much startled by its size and near propinquity that I fired rather hastily but a few feathers floating back to me on the wind convinced me that I had not made quite a clean miss; one of these which I picked up was a complete stickle & I cannot conjecture what its owner could have been. I made a most careful search all through the woods ahead but was unable to start it again, and think it must have taken to some of the pine trees near. As it was a long distance from any house it could scarcely have been a domesticated bird, though its flight was so slow as rather to suggest that hypothesis. Fired one long shot at a grouse and killed a very fine ♂ Colaptes auratus as it was flying over

1874.

Nov. 14 my head. Saw two Cuc. Am. at least a dozen Pas. ilaca, and on the mud bank in "Cambridge nook" a flock of about a dozen Oreamphila cornuta. The day was a most lovely one for though cold there was scarcely any wind. Got back to the house by 1 P.M.

Nov. 18 Rained hard last night the first time for many days. Indeed this section of the country is now suffering from a severe drought. Cleared off finely at noon & the afternoon was warm and mild. Had dinner at 12.30 and started off at 1 with Barstow. Put up the horse on Hill St. and started in on Climates brook above the mill pond. Spent the whole afternoon in the cove above the pond where we started 4 grouse & a bevy of about 10 quail. I shot 2 grouse in 4 shots and a quail in 7 shots having very hard luck. The grouse lay like woodcock and Shot got steady points on all but one bird. I accounted for this unusually good behavior on their part by the fact that the leaves and underbrush were softened by last nights rain and therefore less noise was produced by us in passing over and through them. B. killed nothing though he find a number of times Weard Frog. hyemalis and Passerella iliaca W. B. grouse 2 quail 1

1874.

Ipswich Mass.—Passerculus princeps
Nov 20th 1874

Nov. 20 Rose at 5.30 and met Purdie at the Eastern R.R. station for a trip together to Ipswich. Arrived at the town we took a boat and pulled down river for the sand hills some 3 miles at the water flows. The morning was cloudy & cold with that gray look in the sky peculiar to Nov. days. A little below the village saw a Buteo borealis and an Archibuteo lagopus and opposite Greenwoods a Colymbus septentrionalis which was very shy diving at our approach. Gulls also became very numerous here and three species were noted L. marinus, agentatus and leucopterus. The marinus were all immature and was readily distinguished by their large size and the black bar on the tail which was quite conspicuous. The utered a scream which bore a faint resemblance to the cry of Buteo lineatus and chased the herring gulls whenever the latter were so fortunate as to pick up any food. We approached within at least 80 yds. of a large bed of gulls sitting on the sand nearer than I ever got to so many before. As we neared the mouth of the river Ereunophila cosmita became very abundant. They were in flocks of 20 or 30 and fed both on the marsh and along the beach when the tide had receded. But few sit on the sand hills. In general appearance habits and motions they strikingly resemble the sandpipers. Their notes are very like those of Actitus macularia

1874
Nov. 20 but a trifle more nutlike. They very tame ~~[illegible]~~ feeding alone but accompanied by the wary snow bunting the case was quite different. The latter species was not nearly so abundant. They lit and fed with the snow larks but did not fly about much with them. Saw but few of either species on the sand hills. About noon happening to strike into a little circular meadow among the sand hills I flushed a bird within a few yards of me which I instantly recognized as Pas. princeps. I fired at it on wing and secured a fine specimen. At the report two others rose and lit near me. These I followed and killed the first on wing but missed a head shot at the other. I afterwards heard it chirping loudly but was unable to start it again though we both hunted for it a long time. As the bird rises it looks very large and nearly as white as an albino. It flies irregularly exactly like P. savanna but its size will at once serve to distinguish it. I did not see any of them on the ground, though they permitted in every case a near approach before rising. I heard two notes both exactly like the corresponding ones of Savanna namely the most faint lisp and a low chuck. While in search of the last bird I started a Bachystites bairdii within ten yards of me, and

Ipswich, Mass.

1874
Nov. 20

giving it both barrels of dust shot wounded it slightly in the wing. It flew perhaps 50 yds. and lit. Approaching the place I came suddenly upon it crouched among the beach grass and as it saw me it turned its head and opened its bill menacingly. I stood for several minutes admiring the beauty of its rich plumage when R. came up and struck a blow at its head with his ramrod but missed when it rose with some difficulty and I again fired both barrels missing clean this time. It however went but a short distance and again lit and flushing it once more I killed it. It is decidedly the finest specimen that I have seen. Saw there large flocks of Bermuda Cedar, and several hundred coots, species unrecognized. At 1 the storm which had threatened all the morning broke upon us and we started for town in a pouring rain and against a strong tide. Reached Cambridge by 7 P.M. thoroughly soaked. One of the Princeps which I have shunned had the crop filled entirely with large black spiders (🕷) C. J. Goodale started sky snipe to day at Abington Mass. and killed three of them: two which I saw in the flesh were very large birds and quite fat. Melvin started 6 cock on the 8th and 1 on the 10th inst. the last I have heard of

1874.

Nov. 24 — 1874

Nov. 24 Alternately cloudy & clear with very high wind & occasional snow squalls. Took the 10 A. M. train to Ipswich and walked down to the edge of the marsh opposite Eagle hill where I found further progress prevented by an unusually high tide which had entirely submerged the intervening marsh. Nothing could be done but wait for the falling of the water so I was obliged to spend two hours in a burrough on the lee side of a large hay stack. While here saw two adult. Circus Hud a pair probably as they were hunting in company. Getting over to the hill at last I found the larks & buntings in abundance and detecting a note new to me from a flock of the former whirling past I knocked over the individual uttering it and was delighted to pick up my first Lapponicus. I afterwards saw two more and wounded one of them which however escaped. My attention was at this moment attracted by two Irishmen who were pelting stones at something on the further side of a ridge. Upon seeing me they beckoned and shouted & I immediately went over to them when the elder cried "if I wanted that owl" at the same time coolly pointing at a magnificent Nyctea Nivea which was sitting on the mud a short distance off, making a circuit so as to bring him behind a large rock

Ipswich, Mass.

1874
Nov. 24

I quickly approached within 25 yds of him and at ~~thi~~ killed him instantly with a charge of No. 3. He seemed not at all shy for ~~to~~ the several times peered at me by the rock & then quickly drew back. He looked very large and showed no color except white (the specimen has an unusual predominance of black spotting) and when he was first pointed out to me kept stepping about & hopping with half spread wings uneasily as though apprehension of soiling his fine plumage with the black mud by which he was surrounded. Emberiza cornata was not nearly so abundant as on the 20th and Phc. nivalis exceeded them numerically in the proportion of 15 to 1. The latter fed now on the hills though I several times saw the larks feeding there in the close cropped pasture grass. All of the P. lapponicus were in company with the larks and were only distinguishable from them by the whitish eyebrow & yellow throat while feeding and the smaller size and slightly different flight when on wing, the dorsal aspect at that time being quite undistinguishable as may be better understood upon comparing them in the dried skins. They were born a close affinity to those of Nov. 24. I heard two, one a high whistle & less mellow than the ~~[illegible]~~ the other a chatter strikingly similar to that bird

1874
Nov. 24

but rather less harsh and loud. I found P. nivalis in large flocks & so excessively shy that it was only by careful stalking that I could get a shot. As the sun was setting wild geese suddenly appeared from seawards in immense numbers. Flocks of hundreds with set wings sailed about in circles and many alighted for a few moments on the bare pastures but the place not proving to their liking all soon rose high in air and resumed their journey Southward. As many as 500 were in sight at once and the gabble and chattering they kept up was incessant. I took 6 P. nivalis and 3 E. cornuta, and also bought an im. Graculus dilophus from a man who had just shot it on the top of Eagle hill as it came flying over him. Reaching the town by dark my out attracted a disagreeable amount of attention and I was subjected to a most persistant ordeal of cross questioning by the inhabitants among whom was the reporter of the Ipswich Chronicle who took my name and affirmed that he intended publishing the account of the capture in his paper. Yesterday we had a very heavy storm of snow succeeded by rain and hundreds of geese are reported to have been found in the woods in an exhausted condition

Middlesex Co., Mass.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

1874.

Nov. 26 Clear & still. Went to Andover for the day. R. Deane & C. Carter tried the quail in Belmont & shot 3. D. also shot a Botaurus lentiginosus and saw a single Pinicola enucleator. Two of the latter bird were shot at Lynn by Goodale about two weeks ago

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Nov. 30 Clear but windy and cold. Went up on the farm collecting in the forenoon and took the following. Sitta Can. ♂, Pinicola enucleator 2 (1 adult ♂) Sitta Carol. 2 Passerella iliaca 2 (♂ & ♀) Sarcoramphus albicollis and two Chry. pinus also numbers of C. tristis. Found the grosbeaks quite abundant and observed several flocks containing a dozen or more individuals. Saw also a small flock of Curv. Am. Have seen no C. leucoptera this season though Goodale has had several sent in to him from Conn. Parus atricap, Certhia fam. & Regulus satrapa fairly swarm this season. Of the latter species I must have seen 30 today. The Sitta Can. was in a large flock of the three last named species & is I am convinced the same bird seen on this place on the 9th inst. The grosbeaks are quite tame though restless in disposition. I have no difficulty in calling a flock down from the air by an imitation of their peculiar whistle. Some of their low notes are very ventriloquial in character. I think they feed on the seeds in the white pine cones though preferring the cedar berries

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1874

Dec. 1 — 1874

Dec. 1 Clear and still but very cold. Wind out to the East at sunset and a slight fall of snow in the evening. Off after breakfast driving up to the Waverly mill pond where I tied my horse. Spent the forenoon poking about among the cedar woods in the vicinity but had very poor luck getting only 2 birds, an im. goshawk & a ♀ Picus pubescens for mounting. Could have shot numbers of the former but was looking for the adults and them I could not find. Heard Cuc. am and saw then a few Turdus mig also a large flock of Juncos and literally swarms of Regulus satrapa. Started a grouse off the wall as I was driving from through Prospect St.

Dec. 3 Clear and mild. Started off after breakfast taking old Dart, and drove up to Maynards where I tied my horse and started out with M. to hunt up a bevy of quail which he had seen on the farm. The old dog soon struck their trail & "roaded" them out into an open bog meadow where he finally pulled up stiff among some cranberry vines. We both got into position and as the birds rose, each made a clean double scaring all four birds. Three of those remaining lit in the open meadow after passing through ~~the~~ oaks and two of them with another flushed in the oaks were soon added to the bag only one

1874.

Dec. 3 bird in the bury escaping. I also started two grouse and bagged one of them. Were in the field only two hours and a half and had a most pleasant time. W. B. 5 (-½) quail 1 grouse. C. J. H. 2 (+½) quail.

Dec. 5 Alternately cloudy and clear. Very cold but with scarcely any wind. Rose early and had a light breakfast at 6. Got off a little before 7 with R. Nesbitt and drove up to Mr. Stearns in Waltham where we put up the horse for the day. Began our beat to the Westward of Shumans pond then inclining to the N. hunted up around the Theodore Parker place and down through a succession of runs to Stearns's. Had a most glorious days sport for though our bags were moderate we started lots of birds & the dogs worked well, the main acquisitions for a good time. Found in all, three small bevies of quail, and 17 grouse. The latter were nearly all found in the runs and in the majority of cases lay nearly as well as quail so that with "Shots" steady working & fine nose we got a number of shots over steady points. Old Major (N's setter) also worked finely and is a noble looking dog in the field. We both shot rather poorly especially at the grouse. In one place N. got five consecutive points on grouse in one little open meadow where the birds lay close among the tussocks. The quail had evidently been hunted a great deal and flew farther than I am

know them before. Shot behaved well as usual and on one occasion had just picked up a dead quail when a grouse started by P. came by me. I shot it and the pup charged close at the report still holding the quail in his mouth and when told to "hold up" drew to fine point on the dead grouse without dropping his quail. Saw large numbers of Pinicola enucleator and took 2 fine adult ♂. At the report of a gun the whole flock scatters in all directions each bird diving and whirling about. After all becomes quiet again one of them sets up his whistling call from some tree top and in a few minutes the others appear and the flock is soon collected togther again. Much to my surprise I found Acgothus linaria quite abundant everywhere among the birches and in large flocks. I have not seen them before for at least a month & do not think that they can now be found in this neighborhood (Cambridge & vicinity). Heard also Tri. hyemalis. Reached home by 6 P.M. well pleased with our days hunt. Bag W.B. grouse 3 quail 3. R.N. grouse 3 quail 1.

Dec. 10 Clear mild & a fine day. Off after breakfast for small birds, taking the Coolidge farm. Shot a fine ♂ Pinicola en. adult, a Sitta Car. ♀ (for mounting)

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Dec. 10 and two ♂ Certhia familiaris which latter I shined. Took old Dart & beat carefully for quail but did not succeed in starting the bird. Saw one large flock of Pinicola enucleator & Turdus migratorius, Colaptes auratus & a few Chry. tristis. Cyanura cristata is very scarce as they always are at this season. They begin to appear in early Feb. & by March are tolerably abundant. When they go at this season is a perfect mystery to me. I have however noticed that in the more extensive woodlands of the interior, about Concord for instance, there is no great diminution of this species in Dec. as with us. Certhia familiaris does not I think remain past the year round. We usually find two together at this time of the year, but they are as often of the same sex as otherwise & in either case seem equally much attached to one another. This habit of lifting the tail like the hawks when about to move is peculiar! I never remember having seen any of the Picidae do it & in fact cannot recall having seen them perform that necessary act at all. With the creeper it is of singularly frequent recurrence. As I am writing this at a later date than the heading, I will here note that I yesterday (Dec. 13) saw a Melospiza fasciata & a flock of Spiz. monticola in Dr. Wyman's yard. M. melodia is unusually abundant for the season. Saw four in one flock to day (14th)

1874.

Dec. 12 Clear with sharp bracing air. Started off at daylight with R. Dean for a days tramp and put up our horse at Mr. Bryants in Lincoln. Flushed 5 grouse and a bevy of 10 quail. Shot worked well on the grouse as usual and made a number of fine points but we both shot very poorly. On grouse which we got into the open we had twelve shots at before bringing him to bag. The quail all lit on a little oak knol in a meadow but we succeeded in flushing only three of them again, though we afterwards heard the remainder whistling in the very spot which we had beaten so carefully. I never saw so many clear cases of the withholding of scent as have come under my observation this fall, and I consider it a fact that the more a bevy is hunted and its numbers thinned out, the more closely do the survivors lie & the more pertinaciously do they retain their scent. Saw large numbers of Acgiothus linaria among the birches but only two grosbeaks all day though we hunted over the very same ground where they were so numerous on the 5th inst. Saw also a single Loxia curvirostra am.

Bag. W.B. grouse 1, R.B. quail 1.

Reached home by 6 P.M.

Chrysomitris pinus Middlesex Co., Mass.

Dec. 16 — 1874

Dec. 16 Clear and rather mild. In P.M. took a turn up on the farm and much to my surprise struck a large flock of C. pinus in the cedar grove. There were some thirty in all and they were feeding on the seeds of the cedar berries. This is the first time that I ever found the bird here in winter. Killed 8 in 4 shots and on dissection found that it was impossible to distinguish the sexes by plumage at this season, although adults were quite readily to be separated from birds of the year. They were very tame, in fact could not be driven away from the spot & I could have secured the whole flock. Among them was a very bright adult ♂ Carpodacus purpureus (four individuals of which I forgot to note on the 10th inst). Saw also a few straggling Acanthis linaria & a small flock of Pinicola behind Mt. Auburn. Heard an immature bird of this latter species trying apparently to sing and he really produced some fine notes all of which reminded me much of those of C. purpureus. Saw a few Juncos, i single Turdus mig. (undoubtedly the identical bird found in the same place on the 10th) and at least 30 Regulus satrapa in one flock. This species literally swarms here this winter. While standing in a grove of pines my attention was attracted by a whistling overhead and looking up I discovered a Buccephala Am. flying high up in air towards the North.

Dec. 26 – 1874.

Dec. 26 Cloudy and mild. H. W. Hunsha[illegible] dropped in immediately after breakfast and getting ready as soon as possible we started for "the farm". Spent the whole forenoon in the field and had as we usually do, a very delightful, congenial time. Henry shot seven Pinicola enucleator and then Acgiothus linaria, the latter the first he has ever killed. I killed a Pinicola flying, and also shot a very dark Carpodacus purpureus three of which we saw on the cedar ridge. Saw also a flock of Chry. pinus, a very large one of Plec. nivalis, and the always present Turdus migratorius noted on the 20th. Acgiothus linaria is now abundant on that ground. We must have seen 100 in a single flock, and in this connection it occurs to me that a Colluric borealis was sitting on a bush directly beneath the birch when they were unconcernedly feeding.

Dec. 29 Cloudy and threatening with occasional light showers. Cleared off cold and blustering in P. M. Rose early and started off with R. B. Nesbitt in my buggy at 8. J. Nesbitt with Mr. Carr accompanied us in another team and together we drove up as far as Silver Hill station in Weston where we put up the horses at a farm house and

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Dec. 29 — 1874.

Dec. 29 Started into the woods. Hunted all day and in company until noon, when R. N. & myself became separated from the others. Flushed altogether about 20 grouse and I bagged 1 the only bird killed by the party. They were unusually wild and as a rule gave no but poor chances though some good shots were missed. J. Nesbitt & Carr bagged some 3 rabbits and a gray squirrel. Our beat lay through a very wild country and one, quite new to me, abounding in large tracts of heavy white pine timber and dense thickets of scrub or pitch pine. Saw a few flocks of Acgiothus linaria on Picus villosus a pair of Colaptes & a few blue jays. Reached home by 6 P.M. Bag. W.P. Grouse 1.

Dec. 30 Clear and cold thermo falling steadily all day. Wind rose early in the forenoon and blew furiously the P.M. Rose at 5 A.M. and took the 6.15 to Concord junction where I met Jim M. and W. Buttrick by appointment. George Davidson was to come up on the express but on hour later but as he did not put in an appearance we took a way train on the Nashua & Acton and getting off at Robbins's Mills beat back to Concord by way of

Dec. 30 — 1874

50 acre meadow this Parker lot &c. Had a very fine day's sport putting up 48 grouse and bagging 9. A tenth was hit through the mud and "towered" to a great height falling dead within a hundred yds. of us but we were utterly unable to find it though we worked both dogs over the ground a great many times. We found many of our birds in very open ground and had a number of good shots which were missed. We find 27 & fire 24 shots. One bird was distinctly seen to light in a thick pine but our utmost efforts failed to either discern or dislodge him; he probably settled in some thick clump, among the branches & conscious of his security remained there perfectly motionless. I hunted Shot as usual and got a few steady points though his nose seemed not so good as usual. Saw a few Redpolls and a single Picus villosus. (I forgot to note under Dec. 28 a Chwirostra leucoptera and a ♀ Accipiter Cooperi both of which I saw flying over our yard during the day.) Our bag to day was W.B. Grouse 4 (-1) J.C.M. Grouse 3 (+2) W. Buttrick Grouse 2 (-2) After a good dinner given by Jim, at the Middlesex, I took the 6.34 train home.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875.

Jan. 18 — 1875

Jan. 18 Cloudy and very cold. Thr. at sunrise 4°. Rose at 6 and getting a slight breakfast set off for a collecting tramp. Walked up to "the farm" and came back on the car reaching the house by 10 A.M. Shot 11 birds the best Pinicola enucleator 1 adult ♂ - 1 ♀. Chry. pinus 1, C. tristis 5, Ag. leucia 2, Ag. tetrapa 1. The two Pinicolas were the only ones seen. On the cedar grove found numerous traces of owls and one feather from the abdomen of N. acadica, and near the brook I came upon a little heap of feathers where some bird of prey had devoured a Phe. nivalis: absolutely nothing but the feathers remained but in a "pellet" lying a foot or two away I identified the whole bill of a Pinicola enucleator. Such large birds would be hardly likely I should suppose to fall a prey to the owl above named by the spots of excrement lying on the snow around were of so small a size as to suggest a bird of about that size as the murderer. Saw also a single Carpod. purpureus, and three Coleptes auratus. I shot all of the linnets (3 species & 8 individuals) at one shot, as they were feeding on some tall weeds which overtopped the snow. I saw Chry. pinus in several places but they all I think make the cedar ridge their rendezvous. Heard a ♂ Ag. ligus. Noticed a Certhia familiaris eating large quantities of snow from patches which had frozen on to the bark of a linden tree. The tree has fallen to ♂ every night for 10 days past.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875.

Jan 23 - 1875.

Jan. 23 Clear and cold thermometer falling to 0° in the morning as it has done every night for the last three weeks. Spent the forenoon in the house, labelling up skins etc. Immediately after dinner started for W. Newton with my dog having made an appointment for a tramp with Purdie. Found him all ready so we set out immediately for the woods. Found the walking extremely hard as the old snow underneath was badly crusted but we kept at it till dark nevertheless, and must have walked some four or five miles. I enjoyed myself very much as the country is a new one to me and very beautiful in its spotless robe of newly fallen snow. Shot 11 birds in all: 6 Ag. hir. 3 Chry. pinus 1 Cy. cristata & a Certhia. Chry. pinus is unmistakably resident this winter. They appear to differ slightly in notes from the Oct. migrants and are very dark in plumage. We saw 4 the day and when I fired into them, three falling the Accipiter one remained, hopping about his dead companions with much chirping trying to induce them to answer him. He was so tame that I nearly caught him in my hand supposing him wounded. The Ag. hiemalis were in large flocks feeding on the birch seeds (of the cones) We heard one male give his full (?) spring song a sweet gushing little trill, running quickly up the

Birds migratory

Jan. 23 – 1875

Jan. 23 Kah. We also saw large numbers of robins and at one place at least 30 flying through the oak woods in a close body. They were very shy and silent. On the way back just at sunset a Shrike came gliding out of the woods ahead in pure pursuit of a Goldfinch (C. tristis) but though I watched them through numerous doubling until out of sight I did not see the sequel. The Cyanura was killed under rather peculiar circumstances: it darted into a small thick pine at one approached, from which it was impossible to dislodge it, and quite as impossible to get a good enough sight for even a quick shot, as it moved its position a few feet every time I got my eye on it, reminding me most forcibly of the grey squirrel under similar circumstances. At length however I shot it as it sat not ten yards from the muzzle of the gun. In an alder swamp we found the tracks of a bevy of 6 quail with the closely following ones of a man and dog & further on "6 miserable little" impression in the ~~snow~~ ground & by blood and feathers where one had met his death at the hand of some poaching pot hunter. The snow is now about 9 inches on the level and the sleighing very firm and fine. The long continuance of the present "cold snap" is something quite unprecedented

1875

Sunday

Jan. 24 — 1875

Jan. 24 Cloudy with a slight fall of snow in the afternoon. Started immediately after dinner to drive over to B. Smith's in Brookline. While passing the Waters farm saw a flock of about a dozen S. migratorius among the cedars beyond the brook. I have seen only a single bird (which appeared to be locally resident) there before this winter and probably these new arrivals have been driven from some more wintry retreat by a scarcity of food. When frequent severe winter storms prevail all birds, even those whose food is of such a nature as to be in no danger of submergence, seem stimulated to great restlessness and activity, and their great anxiety with regard to their necessary subsistence is plainly manifested. In Brookline I saw two large flocks of finch probably, one comprising at least 30 individuals, but detected no red ones among them.

Jan. 25 Fine and cold with high wind. Took a ride up the turnpike to Belmont in P. W. Saw two large flocks of Plec. nivalis in the road feeding among the droppings of the horses. They were so tame that I merely drove over them and could not be forced to leave the road.

Jan. 26 Clear and cold. Saw a W. melodia in Brighton feeding on the threshold of a stable.

1875.

Jan. 27 — 1875

Jan. 27 Clear and cold. Thr 10° at sunrise. After breakfast striking up to the farm. Shot for common bird all on the wing killing them principally for practice though I shall use the officinus. Made one good double shot at a pair of pine finches. The others were two S. montanella and one J. grisea. Saw a flock of at least 30 robins on the farm and found their droppings everywhere on the snow. They feed at this season entirely on the berries of aborescent vegetation and will not attack the asparagus until later when the berries become softened by the alternate ~~thawings~~ freezings & thawings. Shot also two Colaptes auratus and a Carpodacus purpureus. Late in P. M. drove up to Mr. Maynards and on the way saw a large flock of Snow buntings in the road as noted on Monday 25th. While at his house a Shrike suddenly appeared and attacked most furiously a bir redpoll which was left out in a trap cage for a decoy but he quickly ~~disappeared~~ when Mr. Greenwood appeared with a gun and though shot at, escaped.

Jan. 28 Clear and still till 11 A. M. when clouds began to gather and by 4 P. M. it was snowing fast. After breakfast took a drive up through Wasoky to Co for

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875

Jan. 28 as the Dyman place in Waltham hoping to get some red grosbeaks.
At the foot of Belmont hill I got a shot at a lightish colored adult ♂, which with one in the slaty plumage was feeding on the berries of the buckthorn bushes, but unaccountably missed them both although they were within easy range and sitting close together. Saw no more grosbeaks during the forenoon, though at one place I tied my horse and took a tramp of a half mile or so among the cedars. Robins are very abundant I saw them at three points and in one spot (foot of "Flag Staff" hill) as many as 50 were sitting about on the apple trees or chasing one another in wanton playfulness. The attraction here consists in a small clump of the buckthorns on whose christmas black berries they must subsist almost entirely. This appearance of these birds in such numbers at so early a date, and especially at the very height of the present unprecedented cold period, must be ranked among those mysterious phenomena of bird migrations, about which it is worse than useless to theorize or conjecture. That there were no more than a few isolated individuals or small companies, scattered through this section at the beginning of the present month I am certain, now the country is swarming with them. Yesterday

Middlesex Co., Mass

1875

Jan. 28 I heard one among a large flock, warbling a few predicting strains in an undertone as they are wont to do at this season, cheered by the feeble rays of our wintry sun, and it seemed to me that he needed only a few kind words of encouragement to burst forth into his bold ringing April song; perhaps some governing spirit among them issued his stern commands that no such unseasonal revelry should be indulged in, and these young men though unable to entirely suppress their exuberance of spirits, put a check on their last they might incur the displeasure of their elders. I noticed in the beginning of the winter that the cedars bore but a scant supply of berries and to day on examination find that nine tenths of the trees have been entirely stripped of them by the winter birds. I have been accustomed to consider the extent of this crop an approximate indication of the numbers of grosbeaks, robins and cedar birds which might be expected during the winter months, but the experience of this season has convinced me that little if any reliance can be placed on this sign, and I am also confidant that the severity of individual winters has no bearing whatever, as for instance in the present season the prevalence of snow & cold, which might have brought the grosbeaks South, would hardly bring the robins North at so early a date.

Accipitres Lineoptera

Jan. 31 — 1875

Jan. 31 Cloudy with light snowfall in P.M. Thru Accipitres Lineoptera (2 ♂ 1 ♀) were seen by R. Dean this morning sitting on ~~a~~ white cedar top in Dr. Walker's yard opposite our place. With the exception of a single specimen noted by me in Dec. these are the first seen in this locality this winter. Under date of Jan. 27 I made a note of a shrike which I saw attack a cage bird at Mr. Maynard's place. The next day (Jan. 28) the same cage and bird being in the same place Mr. M. saw a shrike appear and again try to get at the confined bird (an Acanthis linaria) In the course of its fluttering around the cage it discovered the trap door and immediately entering set fire the spindle and became itself a prisoner. Running out to secure his prize what was M's astonishment at finding that he had captured a typical C. Ludovicianus. This afternoon I went up with R. Dean to see the novelty, and while there we introduced into his box a tree sparrow which was almost instantly attacked by the bird and by a quick blow on the back of the skull knocked to the floor of the cage where its fierce assailant pinned it firmly down gripping its neck firmly in his powerful beak, but after holding it a moment he released his hold and the sparrow fluttered off apparently

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Colluvio Endovicanus in Mass.

Jan. 31 — 1875.

Jan. 31 unhurt, and during the remainder of the time it remained in the cage was regarded by him with the utmost indifference. As he had already eaten two bird (an introduced alien) that day we concluded that ~~the~~ lack of appetite was the cause of his apparent apathy. In the assault above described no use whatever was made of his feet or claws.

Feb. 7 The beginning of the past week was much warmer than any period since the year came in. Monday Feb. 1st the weather moderated very rapidly and on Tuesday the mercury rose to above the freezing point for the first time in over four weeks. Wednesday morning was ushered in by a cloudy sky and a warm S. wind the thm. standing at 42° by noon, and at two P.M. a heavy rain storm commenced which lasted through the succeeding night and reduced the snow about 2/3 or from 12 inches to 4 do. The next daybreak it became cold again and to day has been one of the sunniest of this whole extraordinary winter, the maximum temperature for the day being only 4°. In P.M. drove over to Brookline, called on Arthur Smith and afterwards on Mr. Diamond a gentleman with whom I have been negotiating for a small

1875
Feb. 7 gull, which though resembling superficially C. Bonapartii differs in several important characteristics, especially in having the tail decidedly emarginate, and which may prove something good, perhaps a Kema, of which I can find no description elucidating the immature plumage. This specimen was shot by Mr. D. in Boston harbor Sept – 1874. It was sitting on a mass of floating seaweed & was very tame, inasmuch as the sail boat containing the party ran by it within a few rods before it was discovered. It was holding in its bill a small crab apple and when fired at and wing broken made its way off along the surface with such celerity that it was with difficulty secured. Mr. Diamond expressing a perfect willingness to exchange the specimen with me for a few brightly colored small birds, I brought it home with me.

Feb. 9 Clear and very cold. Thm. 8° below 0 at 10 P.M. Went into Boston immediately after breakfast and meeting Mr. Davenport by appointment took the cars out to Hyde Park together. The object of our visit was to get an opportunity if possible to examine the collection of stuffed birds which belonged to the late James Gatley the well known

1875,
Feb. 9

ornithological reclusu who died last week (Vide pamph. life of J. G. with enclosed obituary notice). After some slight demur on the part of Mr. Twitchel in whose keeping they now, we effected our purpose and gained admittance to the town hall where the collections are temporarily stored. The major part of the collection consisted of mounted birds and mammals, most tastefully grouped in glass cases. For the most part they were arranged by families, each family occupying a separate tier of cases. His positions though replete with bold originality of design, lacked in most instances gracefulness of pose and delicacy of finish. Still as a whole this work was far superior to that of the average taxidermist and some of his efforts were really masterpieces. Exotic species were so finely mixed with native in these cases that it was difficult to judge of his success as a local collector but I noticed the following species which were unquestionally taken by him in this place. Porzana noveboracensis abair; Col. Henslowii, one; Dend. castanea at least a dozen; Ch. agilis one fall pl; Asio accipitrinus (adult feeding chicks in nest, the latter possibly of other parentage) etc. Besides these mounted specimens there were also some 500 skins, about half indigenous species. Among his books the only ornithological authority was a very dilapidated copy of Wilson

1875. Feb. 10 – 1875

Feb. 10 Weather moderated slightly to day with clear sky and very little wind. Took a turn up on the farm late in P.M. principally to see the sunset from my favorite little hill, the cedar ridge. Saw absolutely nothing of importance among the birds with the exception of a medium sized hawk I think B. lineatus which I started near the brook. On an old stump I found numerous droppings etc. of a partridge (B. umbellus) that has haunted this locality all winter. Robins were rather numerous and I saw them prospecting a little among the asparagus berries. Have twice lately seen a Sitta Canadensis in our linden trees. He was in company with a few chickadees and kinglets and is I am sure the same individual that I observed in the same place sometime in Oct. or Nov.

" 18 Clear and cold. Thr 6° at sunrise. This has been the most severe winter known for many years. Since the new year came in we have had only two mornings when the mercury stood above 10°. The whole of Long Island Sound, Mass. Bay etc. are frozen tight. One would imagine that such an unparalleled season would be characterized by numerous unique phenomena of bird migration etc. but such not been the case at least to any noticeable extent. Yesterday I saw the flock of about 30 Ampelis cedrorum. They were feeding

A characteristic winter scene

Feb. 18 - 1875

Feb. 18

in company with robins on the asparagus bed just above Mr. J. Bird's in Watertown: these are the first here though a flock of 50 was seen by C. J. Maynard in Newtonville on the 10th inst. This morning I took the car to Mt. Auburn and struck off on to the farm for a forenoon tramp. The day though cold was still and clear and all the birds noticed were particularly cheery and active. I first came across a small company of Juncos and killed three at a shot! The rusty buffous edging of the feathers is about half worn off or to put it in a nutshell the plumage is midway betwn the autumnal and breeding stages, several of the males were singing in chorus as in April. As I came up behind the cedar ridge a perfect din of bird voices struck my ear and passing cautiously through the trees I looked down upon a most characteristic assemblage of our winter birds. The sun lay warmly in that sheltered little valley forming a ~~most~~ marked contrast with the bleak wind swept hill top I had just left. ~~Sitting~~ Upon the apple trees were at least 50 robins ~~while~~ fluttering over the asparagus sprays were as many more of the same species, while the air was continually filled with individuals coming and going. On the left under the cedars was a bickering merry band of tree sparrows, and the occasional scream of a jay or bold call of the flicker came from the oak woods beyond. The robins were very noisy, ~~calling~~ continually to

1875.

Feb. 18 — 1875

Feb. 18. one another and at frequent intervals some of the younger birds would break out in that peculiar strain of song peculiar to the season. Several times I caught a fragment of the true sparrows fine rapid warble and once a male sang loudly and boldly several times in succession. Among the evergreens behind me my attention was next attracted by a crackling sound the authors of which I soon detected in a little company of Carpodacus purpureus six in number which were feeding on the cedar berries. Only one among them was in the full red plumage. While watching this most interesting scene, a flock of about a dozen fine grosbeaks came whistling overhead and lighted near me. I had a good view of them and noticed that they were all in the immature plumage, and my surprise and delight were passing when the next moment one of them (I could not identify the individual) broke out into a loud, rapid, and most beautiful song; again and again was this repeated until the whole valley rang with his wild powerful notes, and when they ceased at last and the flock departed as suddenly as it came the place seemed to lose all at once its attractions to me and all the interest which had attached to the other and better known species was gone. This song which I had never heard before was very like the best efforts of Carpodacus purpureus, and

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.

Feb. 18

like it very rapid and abounding in ecstatic feeling, but in variety and compass it much excelled, and with all due allowance for the romantic charm of novelty, I think it must be considered an even fine performance. Many of its passages were quite undistinguishable from those of its better known analogue, but at times it burst out in a perfect abandon of wild sweet harmony quite beyond the powers of description. Whether this was really the finished and characteristic song of the love season or not, I have no means at present of knowing, but judging from analogy ("and analogy is often deceptive" as Darwin says) I should be certainly inclined to consider it so. Came home by way of Fresh Pond where a half frozen fisherman showed me among his other captures the first white perch I ever examined. It is not at all rare in that body of water but has always persistently eluded me. Saw also C. tristis & S. linaria. Robins were very when abundant and wishing for a specimen or two I shot down four in five shots as they flew by me, the miss being the first attempt when as so often happens I "got behind him" Find both barrels at a fine adult B. lineatus which passed me at long range and wounded him very badly as proved by his subsequent flight and numerous large feathers which came floating back to me on the wind.

1875

Feb. 24 The last week has been warm and pleasant and the snow and ice are going rapidly. In fact the "backbone of winter" seems to be "broken" at last. Cedar birds are seen nearly every day but are not very numerous. Feb. 19th I saw an immature Podiceps Holbœlli in Goodale's which had been captured alive on the ice in the harbor. Feb. 22 saw a fine adult (or nearly so) Bolbrio borealis at Mt. Auburn.

" 26 Alternately cloudy and clear with a violent N.W. wind. Thr. 26° at sunrise. The snow and ice have almost entirely disappeared and the fields are brown and bare again. Started off for a tramp this morning taking favourite winter range, "the farm" etc. Found birds very scarce in fact saw hardly anything except the most characteristic species. Had one little adventure however worth of note. The brook below the cedar ridge had overflowed its banks to such an extent that the whole picturesque little valley through which it flows was converted into a miniature lake, many of the willows and other trees standing in water five or six feet deep. While creeping along the edge of this little lake in the faint hope of surprising a shelldrake or golden eye in some of the many little nooks formed by the clumps of bushes and irregularities of the shore, my attention was attracted by a black object

1875

Feb. 26 which came sailing across a small expanse of open water under the shadow of a large willow tree. Thinking it a mink I remained motionless until it with some difficulty crawled out upon the ice which margined the shore, and within gunshot of my position, when I discovered much to my surprise that my mink was nothing else than a large star nosed mole (Condylura cristata) which had probably been drowned out of his subterranean abode, and in the full blaze of the mid day sun was confusedly seeking another congenial retreat. After watching it for a few moments I fired and shot it. Fired only one shot during the forenoon — at a flock of Plec. nivalis of which I knocked over four. They were feeding in the furrows of a ploughed field and it was interesting to see them peep at me over the ridge of a furrow then withdraw from sight behind its protecting walls and the next instant appear again perhaps 20 yds. off. Upon picking up my specimens I was much surprised to find that two birds out of the four had the hind-and some of the other, toe nails produced to a most surprising length, & in one specimen these were twisted slightly and attenuated in several places till it seemed wonderful that they had not been broken off. In addition to this several of the toes in each bird were especially swollen, ~~but~~ probably

MASS. (Middlesex)
1875
Feb. 26

having been frozen during the recent cold period, I in P.M. mounted my Condylura and was much interested in dissecting him. The eyes were exceedingly minute, not larger than ⅓ and were simply attached to the inside of the skin and lying on a layer of muscle without the slightest apparent socket and when the skin was turned over the skull coming off with it. The ears (internally) were very perfectly developed. The body was well cased in fat and the swollen rotundity of the tail was due entirely to a large mass of that substance which ~~was attached~~ to surrounded the caudal vertebræ. Saw; ♂. Saw a single pair of Carpodacus purpureus but no Rubicolas: the last of that species noted was observed on the 22nd inst.

March 2 Cloudy and rather warm. Had a heavy snow storm yesterday about ten inches falling, and ending in sleet which crusted over the surface so firmly that I much fear the quail have had to suffer. Took a turn up on the farm this morning after breakfast. Among the cedars found the largest flock of purple finches that I have seen this winter, at least 80 individual. I think they must have worked up to us from the S. Among them were two Pine grosbeaks

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.

March 2nd 1875

March 2 and the whole company were actively engaged in breaking open the cedar berries for the seeds contained therein. The Pinicolas after a while left the flock and lighting on a deadly nightshade vine commenced operating on its bright scarlet fruit turning back time over in their bills until the seeds were forced out and secured. While thus engaged I got within a few feet of them and had a fine chance to watch their motions. About 30 robins were feeding upon the asparagus bed but no Ampelis were observed, indeed I have seen none for a long time. Heard usual Spiz. nivicola singing and came across a little company of Juncos feeding among some weeds, the males all keeping up that conversational twitter and liquid undertone chucking peculiar to this season of their gregarious habits. Saw a few small flocks of Plectrophanes but they were not as numerous as I had expected to find them. I think the major part of the Pinicolas have left us and I am informed by a letter from N. C. Brown that such is also the case at Portland Me. A few straggling companies of Acgiothus were flying about and I shot two of them on a long flying shot. Killed also a fine adult ♂ Carpodacus and got back to the house by 12 M. seeing another grosbeak on the way.

1875
Mch. 16

March 16 — 1875

The weather for the past two weeks has been most disagreeable. Chill Easterly rain storms succeeded by fog and thick with but an occasional sunny day. The thr. has however been above the freezing point nearly all the time and the ground is now bare in many places. The last sleighs were seen out on the 13th. On that day I saw four Pinicolas in our linden and on the 15th a single bird, probably the last for this season. On the 14th (Sunday) Song Sparrows (at least two individuals) were singing in our garden and in the afternoon I heard another chanting regularly in Mr. Donalds Orchard Mt. Auburn. I am not sure that these were arrivals indeed rather opine that they were resident birds but they were actually singing and not practising. Have seen ~~that~~ cedar birds but once since last noted — in our yard where I noticed a small flock, sitting on an elm overhanging Sparks St. This P.M. though the weather was dark & lowering I took my gun and struck up to the farm where I met several "nipper" ornithologists with single barrel guns and small sized collecting baskets, whose enthusiastic boy talk and simple outfit reminded me both sadly and forcibly of happy days long past & and firm friends now widely scattered or in at least one instance

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875

March 16 gone before this time into that spirit world which is to be the final resting place of all mortal beings. After gossiping pleasantly awhile we parted and I got back by dark having shot nothing saw a pair of redpolls. I find the crimson of their foreheads is fast intensifying with the advance of the season. They make now sing at all times of the day and the species is as plentifully represented here as ever.

March 22. The last two days of last week (19th & 20th) were cold and stormy about 6 inches of snow falling Saturday. This morning the ther. stood @ 5° at sunrise but by 9 A.M. it was above ~~20°~~ but the snow did not thaw at all during the day except where directly exposed to the sun's power rays. Off immediately after breakfast taking my usual winter route through the farm, saw nothing of importance until I ~~approached~~ reached the cedar ridge when pausing a moment to listen before I stepped out through the trees I suddenly caught sight of a large ~~hawk~~ approaching and standing perfectly motionless, the next instant he was within ten yards of me and fell a victim to my heavy charge of dust shot at not over fifteen paces. It proved an immature ♀ Buteo lineatus, a bird of the year I think; the ovaries were

1875.

March 22 scarcely more developed than in the autumn and the stomach perfectly empty though the bird was in good condition, quite fat indeed. Here I also shot a cedar bird (which solitary and alone was regaling himself on cedar berries) and watched for some time a pine grosbeak. The latter bird was also seen yesterday by R. Dawson but no numbers of them have been reported for several weeks. Keeping on up the brook to the "Arsenal Woods" I came across a little band of chickadees and golden crests and was rather surprised to hear one of the latter sing for some time and with considerable vigor. I have seldom heard them sing while with us, and never so early in the season as this. While watching the sprightly little chaps a dark shadow glanced across the path and looking up I caught a glimpse of a crow just disappearing among the pines. I fired my heavy dust charge after him with no other effect than the dislodgment of a vast shower of pine needles which were cut off by the shot. Carelessly putting in another charge of light shot but a few moments elapsed until the episode was again repeated when suspecting that I was in the line of a flight of these birds I loaded with No 3 and keeping my eyes about me soon got a fine chance and nailed

Falco Islandicus (?)
— March 22 - 1875 —

March 22 my bird, but though I watched them sometime longer could not get another shot. The crows have I think begun to arrive from the S. and I have seen numbers during the last few days. Soon after this I fell in with a flock of 13 Anseres cedrorum and killed 10 of them in two shots: singularly enough not one out of the whole number was possessed of the wapen appendages. Starting across the fields from this point to intercept the Waltham horse car, my attention was attracted by a large hawk which ~~was~~ rose ~~up~~ over the oak woods to the West of me and to my surprise as soon as he came out into full view he appeared entirely white but in his subsequent circlings as he passed high overhead, the dorsal surface was frequently exposed and looked nearly black or spotted with black. I decided with some little hesitation to be one of the Gyr-falcons, was Islandicus probably, though the whole under surface appeared immaculate, as in var candicans. The hypothesis of its being an albino Buteo which at first presented itself to my thoughts, is improbable, as the general contour of the bird was different — longer wings and tail, and flight, with ~~alternate~~ quick nervous strokes of the wings alternated with short intervals of sailing as with Ac. Cooperi.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

1875

March 22 In an almost inconceivably short space of time he faded from my sight miles away in the blue ether, when last seen appearing like a snow flake in the distance. The Corvus showed a ♂ with the testes swollen to nearly if not quite the maximum size: the stomach was filled with cedar berries and a few larvæ. Have not seen Chey. Jiuns for a month or more. Regulus satrapa also seems quite scarce at about the same date. Eight Cuc. Am. were shot in W. Newton last week by a friend of Warrens, and the same gentleman (Warren) likewise had a snipe (Gal. Wilsoni) brought to him alive. It was found by some boys "with its bill frozen into the mud".

Two male Cuc. leucotreta were seen by R. Deane, Mch. 21st. They lit ~~near a cage~~ on the balcony ~~which~~ near a cage which contained sure lin Acyothus linaria. Saw about half a dozen Turdus migratorius to day! They almost entirely disappeared with the cedar birds some three weeks since. A Plec. Lapponica was taken at Chelsea about two weeks ago (Goodale) and another nearly the same time at Portland Conn. (Page) Siala sialis has been frequently reported of late but I can get no authentic record of its arrival.

Molothrus pecoris et Leis. purpureus et Sialia sialis

Middlesex Co., Mass.

— March 29 - 1875 —

Mar. 29 Clear warm and perfectly still. During the past week we have had ~~some~~ a preponderance of warm sunny weather and the fields are now about half bare again and the roads drying up in places. Took a tramp over the farm this morning with but indifferent success, shooting in all 7 cedar birds a Colaptes (flying overhead) and a Certhia Am. Heard four or five bluebirds warbling in the vicinity of the cedar ridge; they are the first I have seen though C. J. M. noted a ♂ on the 26th and large numbers on the succeeding day. Colaptes are I think more numerous & I heard one singing regularly for first time. Heard also a flock of Curvirostra Am. among some pines but was unable to get a sight at them. They are undoubtedly working up from the S. as I have not seen any since Dec. '74. Saw numbers of Carpod. purpureus and think some new arrivals. The males sang several times in that delicious understrain sometimes heard at this season. Mel. melodia was singing in many places but they are by no means numerous as yet; I may have heard six or seven altogether. Saw Acgiothus linaria in immense flocks; they were feeding among the apple trees for the first time this ~~spring~~ year and the males sang almost continually. While waiting for the cars I heard near by the peculiar rattle of Molothrus pecoris & soon espied the bird a solitary ♂ sitting on an apple tree. While at C. J. M's in Natick yesterday, we saw a flock of 10 Leiscalus purpureus

1875
Mar. 30

March 30 – 1875

Clear still and almost uncomfortably warm. Off after breakfast taking the horse car up to Bagg's and striking thence down over the farm. Had miserably poor luck firing only one shot, at a P. savanna which I bagged. Saw 4 cedar birds all they as hawks, the remnant probably of some used up flock. Song sparrows have about doubled in numbers since yesterday, and Aegiothus linaria decreased in a corresponding ratio. Most of our Juncos & tree sparrows have left and as none have yet come in from the S. the species are both nearly wanting. Heard a number of Chry. tristis in full song, for the first time. Bluebirds are as yet comparatively scarce. Reclining under the lee of the cedar ridge for a quiet smoke I found the sun almost uncomfortably warm. All sorts of insects but principally coleoptera et diptera were moving about. I also saw the little Tamias striata both yesterday and this morning. Arrivals noted this morning were Hirundo bicolor, 2 mas Water. Arrival; Scol. ferrugineus gen. a. one flock 20; A. phoeniceus several of them singing near the Datt marsh; Pas. savanna single bird shot. The change from winter to spring has passed with almost unparalleled rapidity: a week ago the mercury nearly at 0° and there was a foot deep – to day the ground two-thirds bare and swallows blackbirds etc. with us. Took a ride up

Pas. iliaca Middlesex Co., Mass.

March 30 - 1875

March 30. Through Waverley and Belmont this P.M. At "the willows" found S. ferrugineus and A. phoeniceus in abundance the latter singing everywhere over the broad meadows. On the way back saw a single Pas. iliaca by the roadside

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April 2 The warmest day we have had. Thm 64° at noon with light S. wind. Off after breakfast striking up into the swamps, ~~[illegible]~~ and taking "Shot" with me. Near the reservoir heard a Sayornis fuscus the first. In the fields at the foot of the lane found a large flock of Pas. sacanna and heard one of them sing faintly. Approaching the brick yard swamps I found them fairly swarming with birds. Mel. melodia singing from every bush, A. phoeniceus scattered about everywhere and in one little thicket a few Spiz. monticola in full song & among them a single Pas. iliaca which occasionally sang a few hurried snatches of his wild rich song. Afterward in another place I heard one singing with full power. While watching and listening in this place I saw a bird coming straight for me with direct & steady flight. I took it for a field plover, but as it came within range I pulled on it and missed clean with one barrel - the other cartridge missing fire - then as it turned back with a hoarse plover scaipe, scaipe I recognized at once

1875.
April 2

April 2nd — 1875

our long looked for friend the Wilson snipe. Marking it down behind "Phil. Dorothy" I started for the spot but ere I got within 200 yds it was off again & out of sight. Shortly after I got up two more near the same place both rising out of range & going off unshot at, though I had just walked by within 15 ft. of where one of them had been lying. Though the sight of these familiar favorites was most welcome I am entirely at a loss to account for their appearance so early in the season. Not the most sheltered spring hole is as yet fairly thawed out, the meadow patches where they lay were as hard as rocks, the hylas have not yet commenced their merry piping, the Phoebids have been with us scarce a week and in short not a single token has Nature as yet given that she was ready for their presence. May they not pay dearly for their rashness. Among the hassocks where the second bird rose I found a few feathers and droppings but these were quite fresh and I have every reason to believe that all three had just dropped in to this old haunt of theirs. Continuing my walk up as far as the pine swamp what was my surprise, may consternation, to find this old favourite resort of mine nearly unrecognizable, completely obliterated in fact. For the woodchopper had

Middlesex Co., Mass.

April 2 been but too busily at work and the entire maple grove which surrounds the farm was levelled to the earth and arranged in melancholy (to me) piles of cord wood. My disgust was however in some degree modified by the discovery that it had become an even more congenial haunt of the Blackbirds than of yore. All these species were there feeding busily among the brush piles and I levied my contribution on the rustics to the extent of three specimens (♂ 3 ♀). On the way back saw a Ceryle alcyon or Alewife brook and fired a flying shot at him without success. I forgot to mention that I saw a flock of Hirundo bicolor about my boxes this morning. Never in all my experience here I known the birds arrive so suddenly and in such numbers as this spring. The fields are indeed now nearly bare but the snow lies deep everywhere in the woods and the meadows are still covered with thick, albeit rotten, snow-ice. Robins began to appear about the gardens yesterday and to day were abundant. At twilight this evening they were singing all about our house, and I recognized in one with a rather wheezy voice an old acquaintance that has visited our place a member of summers. A song sparrow also which has bred in Mr. Choate's yard for the five past summers & which I know at once by its peculiarity of song, appeared among the first & now sings regularly in the evergreens.

P. gramineus et Sturnella magna

1875.

April 6th - 1875

Apr. 6 Clear and a lovely day with bracing N. wind. Strolled up through the Fresh p. fields in the forenoon, spending much of the time reaching in the sun listening to the birds. Arrivals were Sturnella magna 1; Poocetes gramineus 10 singing. My feet being badly chafed and my boots I was unable to walk much and shot only one bird, a P. savanna. In Grays woods saw a little company of Carpod. purpureus, the adult males singing in a low undertone. Heard a Certhia Am. sing a number of times: its song though short is quite sweet and pleasing. Antiopa butterflies were out in force for the first time, but I am confident that not a single Vanessa has as yet peeped in this locality as I have listened for them long evening. C. J. Goodale reports 20 sings started at Chelsea on the 2nd inst.

April 7 Clear and a fine day though with a cold N. wind. Off after breakfast taking the car to the Arsenal woods. Saw very little of interest. In a bushy swale near the Arsenal were several Pas. iliaca and a ♂ among them regaled me for some time with his unequaled melody: the song of this bird in my opinion surpasses that of any N. A. bird I have ever heard. It is replete with rich and plaintively wild sentiment. Did not bring home a single specimen of any kind.

Concord River Bernicla Can
April 8th 1875

Apr. 8 A clear beautiful morning – cloudy by noon – heavy storm in P.M. with rain sleet & snow. Rose at 5.30 and with C.M. Carter took the 6.15 train to Concord. Found Jim at the Court house and spent a few minutes talking with him. Then proceeding to Sted. Buttricks we got Jim's boat and started down river. On the Great meadows saw a few ducks but did not get a shot. Here we went ashore and brushed the boat. Proceeding on our way we passed Ball's hill and seeing what we took for a whistler (B. Am) in the river below I took the paddle and propelling the boat very slowly and carefully we approached within 30 yds when Charlie shot him dead as he sat on the water. What was our surprise upon picking him up to find that we had killed a fine boy, in adult plumage. He was the smallest bird I ever saw and weighed only 6 Oz. though in good condition. As the boat (brushed with pine boughs) approached he turned and swam directly for it probably taking it for an island. A little below this place we found ducks very abundant. The water was all over the meadows and extended back into the woods and paddling through the thickets we passed from one little lake into another, some of them very beautiful with their shores of thickly growing evergreens. Got only one shot at ducks – a long one at two ducks, which Charlie fired and missed. We also find

1875.

April 10 - 1875.

April 8. all four barrels at a Baltic bonds which came up within long range. Saw then Mergus Amer. about fifty Anas obscura, a dozen Bucephala Am. and a large flock of teal (sp. unrecognized) After eating lunch it commenced snowing and we started back against a fierce gale of sleet and snow and after a hard two hours we reached town again. On the way up saw several large flocks of black ducks sitting on an elevated portion of the meadow. As we approached they would stand nearly erect with necks stretched up: among them was a very light colored bird of equal size which I think was a ♀ mallard. Sent the P.M. in the Court house with Jim and others and took the last train home. Saw a flock of B. Can.

Apr. 10 Clear and a fine day. Wind W. Thm. 60° at noon. Off after breakfast with Messrs. Reid, Barstow and Frothingham. Started two snipe in the Brickyard meadows one of which B. shot. I think they are the same birds that I saw on the 2nd inst. Beat all the Belmont meadows but found nothing. Arrivals were Pandion Car. 1; Mel. palustris several ♂♂; Spizella socialis 1 ♂ singing. Reached the house by noon. The snow is almost entirely gone only a few wasted drifts remaining in sheltered places. The frost is said to be entirely out on the upland but the meadows are remain hard in many places. Heard 1 Hyla

Spiz. pusilla, Regulus calen. Dend. pina
Middlesex Co., Mass.

Sunday
Apr. 11 Clear and warm. Thm. 60° at noon. After breakfast walking out in the garden was much surprised to hear a ♂ Spiz. pusilla trilling his beautiful wild notes from our brush pile. Heard also the first full song of the purple finch. In P.M. drove up to see Mr. Maynard and saw another S. pusilla at his place. He saw Dend. pina (a ♂ singing) this P.M. and heard a ♂ Regulus calendula on the 4th inst. A single Mel. palustris was shot by J. Warren at West Newton on the

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Apr. 12 Cloudy with chill E. wind. Off after dinner striking up through the swamps. In the "Brickyard meadow" started a snipe which "Shot" pointed handsomely, and killed him at the second shot. It was the same bird that he left there Sat. and the little corner where he lay was all marked up with his workings. Continuing on up to the Pine swamp found there a very large flock of robins and shot one a ♂. At the report of the gun two herons (N. Gardenii) started from the pines. I afterwards put out them more but they were very shy and I did not get a shot: their attachment to this old haunt is most remarkable. Then I also shot a fine ♂ Dend. palmarum and a pair of Sialia sialis: of these latter I killed the ♀ first, when the

D. palmarum at Nye. Gardiner
Habits of Scol. ferrugineus
Apr. 12 — 1875 Middlesex Co., Mass.

mate with affecting solicitude came dashing down at me and snapped his bill angrily within a foot or two of my head until he too, "o miserable dieter", met the like fate. Saw also a pair of Agiothus linaria (shot one of them) and two Nd. palustris (also one shot). Met Nat. Nesbitt who had started a pair of woodcock and a bevy of 10 quail in Belmont. Arrivals were: Nye. Gardiner 5; (seen last night by R. Deane) Dend. palmarum 18. The flock of Scol. ferrugineus was a very large one at least 150 individuals. They fed among the brush piles and other thickets along the edge of the swamp hopping in and out among the fallen tops and debris like so many mice. All were on the ground at once, no sentinels being posted. Upon being alarmed the whole body would rise up into the neighboring trees and set up a most infernal clatter, every bird apparently making as much noise as he could. On the ground they were invariably silent, a low chuck of recognition when two met being at most the only sound uttered. While feeding they were quite tame, in the tree tops the reverse. A large flock of Bonaria Canadensis seen flying overhead yesterday (R. Deane) E. J. Self noted a flock at Concord on the 8th inst.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

April 15 – 1875

Apr. 15 Upon the morning of the 13th inst it commenced snowing and the storm raged with unabated violence through that day and the succeeding night, and when it at length ceased on the next morning at least twelve inches had fallen on the level and the drifts in many places were very deep. Altogether it was as violent a storm as we had at any time during the winter. Yesterday the ther did not rise much above 40° so that little impression was made on the snow. This morning after breakfast I set out for a tramp striking up over the "Wotten farm" I found the snow very deep especially in the woods and the walking hard. Saw several D. pina all ♂ and all singing: they were seen at Newton last Sunday. Among the cedars were a flock of Pas. iliaca the ♂ singing most exquisitely. In the apple orchard below I heard several ♂ Regulus satrapa singing exactly as in Me. in June. The song is entirely without melody. I shot a pair and found that they had assumed the summer plumage. Here I also shot a ♂ Sialia sialis: as he fell struggling into the snow his mate uttered a cry of anxiety and hovered over him a moment but as I approached quickly made off warbling very like a ♂ but rather imperfectly. ~~The observation on the same~~ (Compare similar observation on p. 88.) and was soon out of sight. Keeping on up to the Arsenal woods I shot a crow which flew over me within good

range as I stood awaiting him behind a tree trunk. I think that shy birds are more or less dazzled by the intense glare of the sun on the snow these bright days as I have often noticed that they are less wary on such occasions. Heard a single Chry. pinus, the first since early in January. The sight of numerous swallows (H. bicolor) and butterflies (V. Antiopa) flying about over the snow covered fields this morning with grass finches and pine warblers in full song presented a most interesting and curious anomaly. The birds appear to have suffered not at all from the storm though how such birds as swallows managed to procure any food during that time I cannot comprehend. I forgot to note a single Spi. socialis which I heard singing the morning and the first observed since the 10th inst.

April 17 Clear and cool with high N. wind. Off in search of taking "Shot". In the meadow W. of the "Artificial" started a single snipe and fired a long shot at him without effect. Beat all the Belmont ground carefully but found no traces of any birds & doubt if they have struck into that locality as yet. In fact I do not think that we have had any regular flight of snipe as the meadows in the majority

Song Th. the woodcock
Turdus pallasii

MASS. (Middlesex Co.) :
1875.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

April 17 of places are still hard underneath and no green thing has started anywhere except in sunny spots & on the upland. Near the Pine swamp found some owl pellets under an apple tree and climbing up to a likely looking hole I found therein the body of a robin entire - feathers etc. - with the head only taken off, and that too done very recently as the nuptial muscles on the base of the neck were quite fresh and bloody. Searching under other holes and cavities I found other pellets but could not fix them across the birds. The hole containing the robin is I presume a sort of storehouse for the male bird. Coming up through Pastel lane home I saw a flock of at least a doz. Turdus pallasii among the willow stubs. Shot only one bird a ♂ Dendr. vestiaria (var. aemula) I forgot to note under April 15 that in the afternoon of that day I went up to Carlisle with Melvin and Purdie to take the woodcock sing if possible: but in this expedition we were totally unsuccessful as not a bird did we hear. Mr. Robbins our guide & host, heard them two nights in succession Apr. 8-9-10th and has noticed none since. While at his place we were much surprised to see a Passer domesticus flutter against the side of his barn. It was an immature bird though full grown and how it found its way there is a mystery.

1875. April 20 — 1875 — Middlesex Co., Mass.

Apr. 20 Clear but cold and very windy. Thm. 20° at sunrise. Off after breakfast walking up to the farm and back. Shot 10 birds, the best 4 Apple's Cedar-wax 1 Spy, Fusilla & 1 Sialia sialis. Killed 4 Juncos & 1 Song Sparrow at a shot. The former were in very perfect breeding pl. without a trace of rusty or ferruginous anywhere. Saw large flocks of Pas. iliaca and Juncos. Have seen no swallows for three days as the weather has been very cold. Maynard has rec. 22 lin Buteo borealis from a man at Ipsigbury who has so he writes 40 more alive. All are caught in steel traps. They sit in rows on the perches of his aviary and are very peaceable, never quarreling in the least, and frequently sitting on each others backs. The only noise they make is a nearly audible whining whistle. Two that I took from M. Saturday would eat nothing and as their plumage became badly spoiled by this confinement in a small box I let them go in our garden yesterday; both flew but a short distance and alighted in our cherry tree where he sat for some time within good gunshot of me. I think I saw the same bird near Camb. coming this morning, getting within 20 yds. of it before it sprang from the ground, where it was feeding upon something.

1875.

Carduelis elegans Middlesex Co., Mass.

April 21 – 1875

Apr. 21 Clear cold and a very ~~blustering~~ day. Thm. at sunrise 20° at noon 36°. Off after breakfast striking up through the fields to the farm. In Gray's woods had a most agreeable and exciting surprise. While watching some purple finches in the apple trees I suddenly heard a note entirely new to me. kee-dack; kee-dee. kee-dack; kee dee. repeated at frequent intervals in a harsh tone. Looking through the branches ahead what was my surprise at seeing a most beautifully colored bird which I at once recognized as an European species Carduelis elegans. Starting at once in pursuit I found him very shy and while following him from tree to tree he was joined by another of the same species and both flitted through the orchard alighting on the topmost twigs and sometimes whirling off with the wind and the next instant returning again. I finally crept within range and shot one down when I found it ~~easy~~ to secure the other as ~~they~~ it would not leave the spot when its mate (as distinction proved it to be) fell. The above note was the only one that I heard either utter. Their flight was undulating very like that of C. tristis and their fine plumage very conspicuous. Upon skinning them I found both in good order, the male in fact fat.

1875. April 22 - 18 7[illegible] Middlesex Co., Mass

April 21 The sexual organs were very largely developed, the testes of the ♂ being as large as o. and the ovaries of the ♀ well advanced. Thompson in Birds of Ireland gives ~~the~~ an instance of finding the nest Apr. 9. I have not the least idea that these birds had ever been caged — everything is against such a supposition, as their plumage is perfect, and their ~~inscrutable~~ expressive wildness would almost preclude the possibility that they had ever been confined. After this streak of luck tramped all over the farm without seeing anything remarkable. Shot a few birds a Rooster, 2 Sp. Montiedla and a P. Savanna. The migration of Juncos and fox Sparrows is now about at its height.

April 22 Clear and a lovely day, much warmer than any we have had of late. Off after breakfast intending to strike up by the swamps and on to the Belmont hill but a little episode in the lower meadow altered my mind. As I was walking along near the edge of the marsh I heard a ~~nothing~~ most unmeaning note or song which though strange, was yet strangely familiar to me, and after a pretty strong effort of the memory at length remembered where last

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.

April 22 I had heard it and by what it was produced, — on the Belmont meadows some fifteen or eight years back, and by a Wilsons snipe. Creeping down to the edge of the marsh & and peering through the bushes by which it was at this point fringed I was much delighted to espy a fine old Gallinago basking in the sun on the top of a large hassock, and looking a little more closely I made out several more on adjoining elevations. Clambering up on a large stump and making myself as comfortable as possible, I watched them for about an hour and a half and was even then loth to leave so interesting were their ~~[illegible]~~ motions. Not suspecting my presence in the least though within 30 yds of me they pursued the wonted avocations with perfect freedom from fear. One large fellow sitting on the top of a little mound full in the warm beams of the morning sun dozed for minutes at a time without moving and frequently supported on one leg only the other drawn up among his feathers. Another was cleansing his plumage with his bill handling the long secondaries most deftly and sifting through it as it were, the feathers of his wide spread tail. Two or three of the company (and I soon made out seven individuals within a radius of a few yards) were always

1875

April 22 engaged in "boring" and I had a rare chance to observe this interesting characteristic. It reminded me most forcibly of Sparing eels. The snipe standing in a crouching attitude the body nearly horizontal thrust down his bill ~~not being~~ perpendicularly but slanting forwards at a downward angle of about 45 deg. The thrusts were made with astonishing rapidity at least two a second and while making them the bird stood perfectly still, lunging out on all sides just as the eel spears does. When a worm was struck the bill was drawn out rapidly ~~and~~ ~~twisted~~ (again recalling the quick hand over hand recovery of the spear when the eel is struck and pulled up) elevated for a moment, and with a shake or two of the head the worm was swallowed. A capture seemed to be made on the average about once in a dozen thrusts. Sometimes a bird would flit like a Rhyacophilus solitarius a few yards, light on the ice (the meadow was covered with water to the depth of nearly a foot) with upraised wings until sure of his footing and then walk in a crouching posture to some little mound of earth that rose above the flooded meadow. Once five or six of them walked in single file across quite

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875

April 22 a wide expanse of ice and ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ with this crouching movement and stealthy step almost recalled a file of Indians on the war path. This same crouching position was most invariably assumed when they were walking about — the neck drawn in between the shoulders and bill pointing down. When basking in the sun however the body was nearly erect, head thrown back and bill resting on the breast. At frequent intervals one or other of them would utter the cry previously referred to as had at Belmont some years ago. It was a rapidly enunciated cup-cup-cup-cup-cup-cup-cup-cup, uttered with a slightly falling inflection and varied occasionally to kep-kep-kep etc. Once I saw one make a run at another, holding his long bill nearly horizontally like a lance in rest, but this adversary declining the combat turned tail and sneaked off rapidly through the grass.

Leaving them finally I hurried home got my boots, Pooks gun & "the pup" and returning started them from nearly the same place making a good double among the first that rose and securing another the next moment at very long range. Followed the survivors (9 started in all) to the upper marshes I hunted for them a long time (in vain) beating

1875 Middlesex Co. Mass.

April 22 over an immense amount of ground. After lunch & the invariable smoke tried the Belmont meadows but found them altogether too dry and started only one bird which "Shot" found in a ditch and pointed most superbly. Had an easy side shot as it rose and killed it dead with the first barrel. In the evening had my horse harnessed & drove up to the lower swamp in hopes of hearing the snipe "drum". Heard two only as they went out of the swamp at dusk utterring simply the scaipe. Heard also a Porzana Carolina singing, and saw a pair of Black ducks which were flying low over the maple woods. I started the same birds I think, this morning. Total bag for the day Wilsons Snipe 4

Apr. 23 Clear and warm with moderate W. wind. Off in my buggy after breakfast driving up to the Warren farm where I tied. Walking quietly down the lane I spied a moving object in the little pond near it, and creeping down behind the wall, soon made out four Black ducks basking on the surface, in the sun. Spent 2½ hours watching them & hoping in vain, that they would swim around within shot of me. Finally

1875.

April 23 giving this up I made the most elaborate stalk upon them that I have ever attempted, & actually succeeded in crawling to within 50 yds of them with no other cover than a few thin & leafless bushes. Now their ducks went up full stretch, & taking the only chance I gave them a charge of No 3 stopping one which flapped about on the water awhile & then crawled feebly up on shore. Going around to him I got within a few feet as he sat ~~[illegible]~~ nodding on the ~~[illegible]~~ & was about to pick him up when to my great disgust he ~~took~~ straight up through the trees and flew off out of sight my gun missing fire at the critical moment. While watching this flock was much amused by their playful antics. Sometimes one would beat the water with his powerful wings churning it into foam around him then another would take it up and sometimes the whole together making a tremendous noise. They spent much time in cleaning their plumage and in dozing in the sun. I several times saw a drake swim rapidly around his mate (for they were manifestly paired) in a circle as if paying court to her affections. Occasionally one would quack three or four times but never very loudly & in rather a hoarser tone than the domestic Anas. On the way home saw a wild pigeon sitting in an oak by the roadside and tying my horse I stalked &

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.

April 23. shot him. It was a ♂ and the first that I have ever seen in Mass. in Spring. Heard Rana halecina yesterday for the first time and to day heard several (identity unquestionable) of those mysterious insects, frogs or whatever they are, that fill our woods with thin cracked voices during the Autumn months. I have never heard them before in Spring. Reached the house by 1.30. But in the afternoon took my gun and shot and walked up to the pine swamp intending to lay for night herons but as I approached the swamp I saw them already going out although the sun had but just set and by the time I got placed to my satisfaction on the edge of Port pond all had departed (some 30 altogether) They fly to the salt marshes every evening as in the fall. Sitting among the bushes on the edge of the little pond it was most interesting to hear the varying succession of bird (& other) voices as day gradually passed into night. The robins ended up the former period with a grand chorus, then a brief interval of comparative silence when in the still air the ~~rasping~~ incessant rasp of the wood borers could be distinctly heard from the farther side, and the next moment a weird winnowing of wings commencing directly over the pond & culminating in almost a

Nettion Carolinensis

MASS.
1875
April 23.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

shriek fairly startled me until I remembered its author: it was a Wilson's Snipe and the sharp scaip scaip of several others as they rose from the marsh to the Westward and an answering drumming from the Block island meadow immediately succeeded, and now the merry peep of the Hylas swelled up from every pool and with the croaking of Rana halecina inaugurated a chorus that would persist till the dawn of the next day. A few minutes later a large owl sailed over me but I did not catch sight of him until too late to fire. He continued in sight several moment beating about over the woods with intermittent flapping & sailings inclining occasionally to either side, and finally soaring high up in the air, circling about of motionless wings like a buzzard or an eagle and eventually disappearing in the gathering darkness. I set him down as Otus Wilsonianus though it might have been a Brachyotus: certainly it was one of the two. His tail was wide spread as he passed over me and a certain buoyant lifting of the body and apparent indiscreteness of purpose at each stroke of the wings reminded me quite forcibly of a night hawk. Coming down through the swamps I heard at least three different individuals of Porzana Carolina one of them calling incessantly ka-e, kar, e, kar-e: & the other cackling as noted on former occasions. N. Nesbitt shot a ♀ Nettion Carolinensis

1875. Middlesex Co., Mass.

Apr. 24 Clear warm and pleasant with S.W. wind. Off after breakfast in my buggy taking "Shot" as I intended to try to find a woodcock's nest in the Warren run where I saw abundant signs of the birds yesterday. Tying my horse in the usual place I struck down into the run and ranging "Shot" for a short distance he found and pointed one of the birds which by its size I concluded was the ♂. After flushing it & making sure that it had not risen from the nest I let the setter out again and he soon came down on his point most handsomely, absolutely refusing to move ~~on~~. Being quite sure this time of the nest I scanned the ground in all directions for the sitting bird but in vain — nothing in sight but the universal woodland carpet of dry leaves & many tinted mosses, and antiopa butterflies playing about in the sunshine. Taking another step towards the immovable and ~~statues~~ statuesque setter I placed my hand for support on a small birch sapling when with dangling legs and a scarcely audible flutter a large cock sprang at my very feet, and rising straight up among the birches, whistled off in the customary manner. Looking down at the spot where he had lain there were the eggs, four in number now conspicuous enough

Middlesex Co., Mass.

Apr. 24 on this bed of oak leaves & dry grasses. Taking a long look at the beauties, for it was the first nest that I had ever seen, I removed to the distance of 50 yds. and concealing myself awaited the return of the old bird, but although I remained there an hour by the watch she did not again put in an appearance, so with much reluctance and feelings of mingled pleasure and satisfaction. I carefully packed the eggs in my collecting box and started for home. The nest was placed at the foot of a birch sapling in the very middle of a springy "run" and the little mound on which it rested, raised it barely a foot above the water by which it was entirely surrounded. The cover though dense enough on the elevated ground bordering the run, was in the neighborhood of the nest both low and scanty. The nest itself was compond principally of leaves and dry grasses, carefully & smoothly arranged and was hollowed out quite appreciably in the centre. A few feathers from the birds breast were mingled with the materials composing the nest and the dry chalky excrement of the bird was plastered on its side. The eggs had been incubated about a week I should judge & all contained well formed embryos. The ♂ bird which I flushed first was lying some 20 yds from his sitting mate

Nest of Scops Asio

April 26 — 1875

Apr. 26 Clear and warm. Off after breakfast striking up through the swamps. Spent most of the forenoon hunting for the mottled owls nest around the Pine swamp where I saw so many signs of the birds on the 17th inst and finally found it in a natural hole in an apple tree some distance from the swamp and quite near a house. The ♀ (a gray bird) was sitting on four eggs in which the embryos were just assuming their shape as future birds. There was not the slightest indication of a nest, the eggs merely lying on a bed of rotten chips, and feathers plucked from the victims of the owls. 10 days experience has quite changed my mind with regard to the bird destroying proclivities of this species of owl. In many empty holes which were doubtless the resorts of the ♂ were feathers of different species of birds & in the nesting cavity I found remains of some four or five species, including Phl. nivalis, Sialia sialis, & last & most numerous Turdus migratorius. The nest was in a very filthy condition from the excrement of the bird which was freely voided about the cavity. The sitting bird when taken off her eggs seemed perfectly stupid — made no resistance with either bill or claws and lay in the open palm of my hand without attempting

Accipiter fuscus
Nest of Corvus Americanus

April 26 to escape. I took the eggs & left the bird in hopes of another litter. On the way home saw two Accipiter fuscus flying Northward. H. R. Godwin came out to see me in the afternoon. Saw one common little yellow field butterfly out this morning for the first time.

Apr. 27 Clear but rather cool. Started off immediately after breakfast in my buggy taking dinner for the horse & myself. Drove up to the lane (Shade St.) where I once found a hawks nest with young and tying my horse, spent the whole forenoon hunting the woods in that neighborhood for the nests of raptorial birds. Found abundant signs of owls especially Bubo Virgin. but could not discover any of their nests. Got a Crows however with 4 eggs. The birds were in the immediate neighborhood and when I commenced ascending the tree, both kept flying overhead (out of gun range however) cawing incessantly in an angry tone. The nest was in a low second growth pine, not over 20 ft. above the ground. Started as many as 10 grouse and hearing one "drum" a number of times crept cautiously up when he started off a stone wall. I heard a bird drum on the same wall & indeed on the very identical stone which out with R. Deane some four years ago, and returning

1875.

Gallinula martinica
Herodias egretta

April 27 — 1875

April 27. near the place this afternoon I heard this bird again in exactly the same place: probably they use a certain rock, mound, or log every season. On the way home searched many likely orchards for owls nests but although I found signs in many & in some cases most likely holes with owls feathers in & about them I could discover no nests. I forgot to mention in connection with my discovery of the nest yesterday that there were no "pellets" under the hole & only one in the surrounding orchard though in neighboring ones they were under nearly every tree. Saw a little flock of Den. coronata this morning & a single D. palmarum yesterday. The late April birds are very late this year & very scarce too. I have been not a single Regulus calendula and Hirundo bicolor is very scarce; I think they were nearly all killed by the cold snap last week as before that they were far more plentiful than they have been at any time since. The snow is now entirely gone & the frost all out of the ground. Saw a swallow building in one of my boxes the morning of writing this (Apr. 28). A Gallinula ~~galeata~~ martinica was caught at Rockport Mass Apr. 10th & a Ardea egretta shot at Plymouth Mass Apr. 20th.

Hirundo horreorum

1875.

April 30 – 1875

Apr. 30 Clear and very windy with slight shower in P.M. Took the 8.10 A.M. train for Concord and met A. Garland on the cars. He was going to try the snipe at Bedford. Arriving at C. started off E. from the town and spent the whole day in the wood taking the 6.36 train home at Lincoln. Devoted most of the time to hunting for hawks nests but did not succeed in finding any, though near Lincoln I discovered a pair of the birds (B. borealis) and shall try for their nest next week. Shot a Reg. calendula ♂, D. palmarum 6 (2♀) D. pina ♂, & D. coronata 2♂, Shot the latter from a flock of several hundred which were collected in the woods along the shore of Walden P. The attraction here I soon discovered in immense swarms of ~~Diptera~~ insects, a species of Diptera which occurs near ponds in myriads at this season. Only a few D. coronata were with the red polls, but near the centre of the pond itself was a single Hirundo horreorum skimming about close to the surface of the water. Found signs of Scops Asio in nearly every old orchard that I visited but was unable to discover a nest though some of the droppings etc were quite fresh: in many holes I found feathers etc. of small birds principally robins. Found two crows nests from which I started the birds, but did not take the trouble to examine them. Ascended a

1875
April 30

May 2 — 1875 Middlesex Co. Mass.

small pine to investigate a squirrels nest and when about half way up, a large Sciurus Carolinensis ran out. I pulled a hole in the bottom and drew out a young "gray" about as large as ~~an~~ adult. Tamias striata but with as yet unclosed eyes. The little fellow squeaked most piteously in a high key, but the old one did not attempt "a scene" as I expected she would, ~~for~~ indeed did I see her again. Started at least a dozen grouse and one woodcock. Saw also near Lincoln a pure white woodchuck but did not get a shot at him. Killed one of the ordinary color at Concord and found him infested with wood ticks many of which were swollen to an enormous size.

Sunday
May 2 Clear with high wind. Heard a Lon. albicollis singing in our garden this morning and saw a flock of 13 Euspiroda Ann. in Mr. Hubbards grounds opposite. In the afternoon took a walk up to the swamps and saw at least 50 Hirundo horreorum circling about over the clay pit. The elm trees are in full flower and the willow catkins have been out some days. The grass is also getting green nearly everywhere. Two or three Mniotilta varia at Brookline (Arthur Smith)

Harporhynchus rufus

May 4th 1875

May 4 Cloudy and chill with E. wind. Off after breakfast driving up to the Warren run where I spent most of the forenoon searching in vain for the 2nd nest of my woodcock. "Shot" treeing a bevy of 6 quail for some distance and finally found them in a thicket of birches. On the evening of May 1st I heard a ♂ calling Bob White near Mr. Maynards in Newtonville. Birds of all kinds are now fast increasing in numbers. I heard a ♂ Har. rufus and Lon. albicollis was abundant everywhere. Shot a ♂ Regulus calendula and saw and heard several others, as well as two ♂ Minotilta varia. Juncos, fox sparrows, & tree sparrows have entirely disappeared.

May 6 Cloudy with wind S.E. Off after breakfast driving up on to the Hill and tying my horse in Prospect St. Shot 9 birds, among them a pair of Regulus calendula. Arrivals were Pipilo erythrophalmus sw. 5½; Mimus Carolinensis 1 specimen; Dend. virens a ♂ singing. I saw also a house wren for the first time but one was seen in Cambridge by R. Deane May 3rd. Found an owl's hole in an orchard and took therefrom numerous feathers of a quail as well as of robins & smaller birds. Although there were several other likely holes in the neighborhood I could

1875. May 6 — 1875 Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 6 discover neither the birds nor their nest. Brown thrushes were singing everywhere. Saw the first snake of the season, a Coluber vistatus. Bufo Am. commenced singing the night of May 3rd. While driving through the further end of Prospect St. on my way home saw a bevy of ~~xx~~ quail ~~[illegible]~~ skulking through the bushes which fringed the road, and pulling up the horse when nearly abreast of them had the pleasure of counting ten of the beauties, as they filed past within literally reach of my whip: seven out of the ten were hens and the prospect of a goodly hatch in that district is most favorable. Saw a patch of snow and ice today, ~~[illegible]~~ several feet square: it was among some very thick cedars. Saw a ♀ Sitta Can. in our garden last evening.

May 7 Rained hard all last night & this forenoon clearing off bright at about 11. After dinner started up into the swamps and passed the whole of the afternoon wading about in them. Took 9 birds, a bittern, a fine pair of soras & a Virginia rail, a red wing ♂, and 4 Mel. palustris. Visited my owls nest and found that the birds had deserted the hole though they had apparently been there since I robbed it, as two fresh pellets,

Bird notes and Breeding

May 7 – 1875

1875
May 7

(one of them composed entirely of blue birds feathers) lay under the tree. Near Block is. heard a number of rails calling and coming down through the Brickyard swamp after sunset found the bushes fairly swarming with both species. In one little patch of meadow interspersed with thickets there must have been dozens of them and I frequently heard four or five of either species calling at once. A succession of peculiar squealing notes given in a low tone, induced me, in this place, to wade in cautiously to the spot, although I more than half expected that the author would turn out an amorously disposed musk rat as I have heard them utter very similar notes under those circumstances but peering ~~around~~ a thick bush I was much delighted to see a pair of Porzana Carolina within a few yards of me going through all the ceremonies of courtship. The female skulked coyly through the grass followed closely by the male, both birds twisting and doubling about in the little patch of meadow which was only a few yards square. Every now and then the retreating bird would stop until the other came up when he would spread his tail to the very utmost extent and elevating it nearly to the perpendicular, strut around her with all the

1875 May 7 — 1875

May 7. pomp of a turkey cock, uttering all the time the squeaking above referred to. When the object of his attentions apparently becoming tired of them, would skulk off again pursued closely as before. Often when the water became too deep for wading, she would swim, her admirer following prettily in her wake. At length becoming tired of watching all this, and wanting the hair badly to mount, I fired and killed the ♂, wounding, and with another shot securing the ♀. The song of Porzana Carolina is evidently the ka-e previously noted. There are also at least two other notes, the cackling one, cutter, cutter, cutter: a very rapidly enunciated cry of eight or ten syllables, descending the scale so rapidly as almost to merit the appellation of a trill; and a single sharp, quick kep, the cry of alarm used indiscriminately by both sexes & by the young birds in autumn. Rallus Virginianus has only two calls that I am sure of at present, the first ~~& which~~ I think is the song of the ♂ ~~is~~ a quick rasping note ~~of a number~~ repeated a number of times in succession and utterly undescribable. I can compare it only to a certain complaining sound made by a pig when hungry. The other is

[This, as we did not learn until long afterward, is the characteristic song of Rallus virginianus]

Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 7 a monosyllabic scream of alarm
Arrivals Hirundo lunifrons, Rallus
Virginianus

May 8 Cloudy with frequent drizzling rain.
Took the 6.15 train for Concord where
I met Jim by appointment and
started down River with him in his
boat. We went ashore at the head
of the meadows putting up big
snipe and killing one of them.
The others flew out of sight and
after beating about a while longer
we gave up in disgust as it
was beginning to rain and with
W. Buttrick who had joined us
with Jim's old dog started up river
in the boat reaching Sted. Buttrick's
by 11. After eating lunch, the prospect
brightening a little we started again,
striking across through the woods
for Dam meadow. Passing through
a piece of high oaks I happened to
glance up and immediately espied
eight wild pigeons sitting motionless
within fifty rods of us but as I
raised my gun they went off like
arrows and I missed with the single
barrel that I pulled on them.
Following on we started them
again, and firing four barrels
at long range got down one, a
fine ♀ which I shall mount;
On Dam meadow found no snipe

Butorides virescens, Progne purpurea
Tringoides macularius

Middlesex Co. Mass.

May 8 but Diogenes flushed a woodcock among a small thicket of birches. This bird behaved in a very unusual manner soaring about our heads for several minutes before flying off: it probably had either a nest or young in the vicinity. Reached town at 2 P.M. and I drove me down to Waltham where I took the train. On the road below Concord a fine Butorides virescens rose out of a pond hole and lit in some scrub oaks but was so shy I was unable to get near him. Arrivals were Tringoides macularius several; Butorides virescens 1. Progne purpurea, abdunda Empi minimus seen at Brookline on the 6th, Porzana noveboracensis ~~Shot~~ and Athene hypugea shot at Newburyport Mass, on the 4th May (by Clifford and Joyce) Rallus crepitans taken on vessel off Boston harbor May (C. G. Brewster)

Sunday May 9 Cloudy with E. wind. Drove up to Maynards in P.M. and saw a large company of Chaetura pelasgia at least 50 in number, circling about over the town at Waltham.

May 10 Clear and very warm. Thm. 84° at noon. Spent the whole day in the house working over birds. Percy Aldritch came out to see me

D. aestiva, Vireo gilvus et flavifrons, Ic. Baltimore, G. trichas, S. aurocapillus, Turdus fuscescens.

Perisoreus Canadensis, May 10

May 10. in the P.M. Several Icterus Baltimore were seen to day. I noted Tyrannus Car. and Dend. aestiva both in numbers

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May 11 Clear and warm. I spent all the day in the house and mounted 4 birds. Henry Henshaw arrived from Washington last night and dropped in on me this afternoon. Purdie also came out and we went up to the swamps together at sunset to hear the rails, with which the swamps were fairly alive. Purdie compared the cackling of [Rallus virginianus] R. Carolina to the strokes of a watchman's rattle turned slowly. Arrivals were Vireo gilvus et flavifrons and G. trichas all in numbers. Icterus Baltimore was also quite numerous about the city this morning.

May 12 Clear & warm. Saw a ♀ D. aestiva winding the very first piece of stuff into a fork of a lilac bush. She apparently selected the site for the nest without a moments hesitation. Seiurus aurocapillus noted at Newton on the 8th & T. fuscescens on the 9th inst. Geothlypis Ludoviciana & Del. virgivorus on the 10th; Antrostomus vociferus, D. Pennsylvanicus and D. Blackburniae on the 11th; Parula Am. & Hel. superciliosa on the 12th. Mr. B. J. Maynard saw distinctly a Perisoreus Canadensis in a garden in West Newton on May 10. Mr. Percy Aldrich was with M. at the time and the identification beyond suspicion of error.

1875

May 13 Clear with high cold wind. Rose at 6 A.M. and had Charles drive me up to the Waverley hill where I spent the forenoon collecting and meeting him by appointment at 1 P.M. drove home. Took 26 birds the best D. Blackburniae 8, D. caerulescens 4♂, D. virens 7♂, Pyranga rubra ♂, Hy. Ludovic. 2♂ 1♀. Arrivals were Vireo Nov. 1♂, D. caerules. 3.a; Rubra 1♂; Contopus virens 1 well seen & unmistakable though not shot; The woods were fairly alive with birds and the collecting very easy as the trees are as bare as in winter. Found a Crows nest with young, in a pitch pine but did not ascend to it; the young kept up a continuous whining cry.

May 14 Clear with E wind. Spent all the A.M. skinning birds & put up 16. Immediately after dinner started off in the buggy with Henry H. and drove up to Belmont. Henry first tried the hill and shot a pair of Hydrochelidon Nigra, a wood thrush and a few others. Then kept on to "the willows" where he took a very fine ~~Tot~~ Tetanus solitarius Tetanus solitarius, a water thrush and a ♀ Hirundo horreorum. Came home through Prospect St. where we shot a ♀ D. discolor. Arrivals were D. maculosa 1♂; Hy. pusillus 1♂; Seiurus noveboracensis 2.a; D. discolor 2.a. Trochilus colubris 1♂, (Cyanospiza cyanea 3♂ (B.D.)) A very few cherry blossoms are out.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 17 Clear with cold N. wind. Rose at 6 and was driven up to the further end of Prospect St. by Charles. Walked from there up through the willows then down along the edge of Rock meadow to the upper mill pond when I crossed over to Waverly woods and was taken up by Charles again at 12.30 reaching the house by 12.30. Took out my Stevens pistol (a new invention) for the first time and killed 14 birds in 26 shots. The best were Vireo Nov. 3, D. discolor 6 & 2, Trochilus colubris 6, Totanus solitarius 1, Seiurus Nov. 1, and Hydemeles Ludovic. 6. Heard ~~Turdus~~ ~~Swainsonii~~ T. Swainsonii singing in full blast at two different points and on the latter occasion near noon. Found a nest of Corvus Am. in a wild apple tree in an old pasture. It was about 15 ft. ~~high~~ above the ground and contained 3 eggs deserted and one of them pierced by the bill of some bird. Under the tree the turf was fairly covered with sticks of various sizes which the birds had dropped while building. Saw three solitary tattlers. Shot the one I got with a charge of No. 10 in the pistol, at about 20 yds.
Heard a ♂ Dendroica Am. singing in a practising strain in a tall yellow pine and shot him with the pistol but he lodged so high up that I could not get down. His song was evidently unfinished & like whit, whit, whit, whit, wit; tu-tu-tu-tu-tu; whit, whit. Saw two ♂ male wood thrushes fighting one a-q and while tumbling about in the leaves they sang most beautifully though

Corvus ossifragus (May 16)

1875. Dend. tigrina Chordeiles popetue

May 17. in a very hurried strain. Yesterday (Sunday) I saw a flock of about 20 crows coming over one place cawing loudly & chasing an individual that appeared a little smaller than the rest. As they were directly overhead the pursuers ceased their clamor and the pursued called out six or eight times in succession in the not to be mistaken accents of Corvus ossifragus. I had made the acquaintance of this bird at Washington D.C. in 1873 and am sure that I was not mistaken. The whole flock soon swept out of sight the Northern birds still harassing their maritime relation. Henry Purdie saw 3 of Hal. leucocephalus at Newton the same morning (May 16) Frank Whitney Esq. shot a Dend. tigrina to day at Belmont and another on the 14 inst at Waltham! both were ♂s and were found among low cedars.

May 18 Alternately cloudy and clear with very high S.E. wind. Drove over to W. Newton last evening and spending the night with Purdie we rose early this morning and driving over to the "Upper falls" 2½ miles took a boat above the dam and spent the day on the river I shot 15 birds among them Chordeiles popetue ♂, Hirundo rubis 6♂ (Purdie bagged) Dend. maculosa ♂ etc. Found a nest of Sayornis fuscus attached to a R.R. bridge and ready for the eggs. Birds now very scarce in the woods & we saw nothing worthy of note. I reached Cambridge by 6 P.M.

Song of D. tigrina, R. strigata, Parvioria Am.
Breeding note of Pipilo erythrophthalmus
May 20 – 1875

May 20 Clear with high wind. Row at 6 and had Charles drive me up to Waverley where I spent the forenoon on the hill. Took 14 birds the best D. tigrina ♂, Hy. Ludoviciana 2♂, D. caerulescens 1♂, etc. The Cape May warbler was among low cedars in the same place where Mr. Whitney shot one on the 17th. It was singing in the same way as one seen near our house at Watertown in the spring of 1869 – a rather feebly trilling strain very like a variation of the redstart or one of Parula Am. but recognizably distinct from either and quite different from the decided summer song in Mr. It was decidedly fat – indeed all the birds are this season, sparrows, warblers & thrushes indifferently which fact is I think attributable to the very slow advance of the season which keeps the birds weather bound, and prevents the full development of that restless migratory tendency so inimical to obesity. Dend. coronata is still very abundant and I saw a ♀ D. palmarum the last of the season. Turdus Swainsoni was singing in several places this morning. Heard another Red Crossbill practising and several times caught the distant call note of individuals that were flying about on the woods. Heard the low low note of Pipilo erythrophthalmus which I believe I never noticed before though it has occasionally come to my notice – a feeble zeeep. Shaking an old stump in the Waverley swamp I was much delighted at the sudden appearance

Flying Squirrel

Mel. Lincolnii
My. Canadensis

May 21 — 1875

of a fine Pteromys volucella the first I ever saw alive. He came out of an old downy woodpecker's hole and though I shook the tree most violently he still succeeded in clinging to it and the moment I stopped would whisk into the hole to come out again at the first renewal of the shaking. Finally he "took wing" and sailed in a graceful "festoon" to the next tree a fine maple where I could not dislodge him, as he flattened himself against the bark and treated the shower of old branches & bark which I pelted at him with serene contempt. Finally I shot him but as I got within a yard or two of his agonized struggling among the leaves he found a hole among some roots and escaped much to my disgust. Saw D. striata

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May 21 Clear and warm. Wind S.W. Off after breakfast, driving up to the willows. Shot 14 birds with my pistol in 17 shots. The best were Mel. Lincolnii ♀, D. maculosa 3♂, D. caerulescens 3♀ 1♂, My. pusillus 1♀, Dendroica coronata 2(♂ ♀), etc. Birds were very numerous and I shot all my specimens in a little thicket near the road. The M. Lincolnii was perfectly silent and rather shy or perhaps, more properly speaking, suspicious. In one place I saw 1♀ D. caerulescens and one ♂. Saw a single ♂ My. Canadensis. Watched a

Breeding notes and habits of Circus Hudsonius
Song of Vireo Noveboracensis

Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 21 fine ♂ marsh hawk for some time. He evidently had a mate sitting on the nest in a certain portion of the meadow for at regular intervals of a hour or so, he would approach the spot flying very high up and commence stooping down like a night hawk at each stoop uttering a rather feeble kep, kep, kep. While performing these evolutions his motions were most graceful ~~and~~ airy and buoyant; at each descent he approached nearer the earth and finally I could just catch sight of him as he rose above the bushes and plunged down again ~~until at last~~ and after one or two more descents, he would appear no more, having probably alighted near his mate. I marked the spot as accurately as possible and shall visit it to morrow. The song of Vireo Noveboracensis may be exactly imitated by the syllables chick, a-re chick or sometimes chick, a-reo. The chery trees were fairly out yesterday for the first time. Hummingbirds are especially scarce I have seen only two. Robins nest, 4 fresh eggs.

May 22 Rained hard last night clearing off at noon to day. Very warm in P.M. thermometer 82°. Spent the morning about the house doing up odd jobs which owing to press of work I have sadly neglected of late. After dinner drove up to the "Willows" taking "Shot." Spent all the P.M. searching for the marsh

Ixoreus minutilla, Zon. leucophrys
Dend. tigrina. Nests of Sialia sialis and M. melodia

1875. May 22 — 1875 Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 22 hawks nest but was utterly unsuccessful though I found the ♂ bird sitting on a tussock near where I observed him plunging yesterday. Started several rails (R. Vir.) and a bittern but do not think they have laid yet. Birds are very late this year in their nesting. Robins and bluebirds have but barely commenced incubation. I took a nest of the latter from a box in our garden this morning, containing 5 fresh eggs. Saw numerous My. pusillus et Canadensis but did not shoot any as I should have had no time to skin them. Am very positive that I heard a ♂ D. tigrina singing in Waverly but the locality being dangerous I did not attempt to shoot him. Coming home through Prospect St. I started a pair of Zon. leucophrys out of the road and trying the horse I shot down both but could find only one, the ♀. Heard the ♂ sing several times: the song as noted in 1873 is very plaintive and commonsidfactly the same time and key as that of Pooecetes gramineus. It was also very feeble but I have no idea that what I have here is the full finished performance and indeed it may be far from it as in the case of D. tigrina and Zon. albicollis. At this place found a nest of M. melodia with 5 fresh eggs. From what I saw this afternoon I judge that a very heavy flight of birds passed us to day. Ixoreus minutilla in

large flocks on the Brighton marshes this afternoon. (Robert Foster)

Nests of Buteo lineatus, Circus Hudsonius, Parus atricapillus, Spiz. pusilla, S. socialis, Turdus mustelinus, Mimus Carolinensis

May 24 – 1875

May 24 Clear and very hot with S. wind. Rose at 5 A.M. and had Charles drive me up to the pine hill above Lawrence's in Waltham. From there struck out to Rock meadow and thence down to the hill in Weasby where Charles took me up again at 1. Shot 13 birds the best E. flaviventris 3, Ph. chrysoptera 1?, Ny. Canadensis 3, Ny. Barbra 3, Guiraca Ludovic. 2 ♂. Had great luck on eggs taking a nest of Parus atri. 6 fresh, Spiz. pusilla 4 do, Sp. socialis 4 do, Mimus Car. 5 do. Also found & left nest of T. mustelinus (in cedar tree) 1 egg. Carp. Jaspersons nest just finished. Found a large nest in the fork of a tall oak and climbing up a neighboring tree I was much surprised to see a very fine adlt. Buteo lineatus sitting ~~the~~ on (the nest). When at length she saw me she hopped up on the edge of her eyre looked at me a minute then flapped to the nearest limb, took another good look and sailing out over my head screamed at me with the usual que-co, que-co ~~and~~ in ~~the~~ most piercing tones I thought than when gone through seasons. Not being able to see into the nest I descended but when I appeared erect ~~upon~~ upon the ground the old hawk sheered off out of gun range as though sure for the first time fairly recognizing ~~it~~ its most deadly enemy. This bird was I think the ♂. ~~and~~ had remained on the nest all the time I was walking around under it before climbing the

Nest building habits of Circus cyaneus var. Hudsonius

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.

May 24. adjoining tree. From the spread of the encircling platform of sticks I think however ~~that~~ he could not see me when underneath but it was very still & he must have heard the cracking of the dry twigs etc. I shall get at the nest to morrow in some way or other if possible. Taking a look into the meadow where I saw the marsh hawks last week what was my delight at finding the birds both there and engaged in building their nest. The ♀ sat on a tree while the ♂ collected dry grass and carried it to a certain spot among some low shrubs where he dropped and after remaining about 30 seconds started off again. Frequently he would go no more than 30 feet or so for this purpose and never over 100 yds. The ♀ only went to the nest once during a hour or more that I spent watching them. They kept up an almost incessant calling to one another, a shrill squeaking gue, gue, gue very different from any note I ever heard them utter before. Whether the ♂ used his bill or feet in collecting & transporting the grass I could not decide, as I did not dare to approach too close, but I think that the feet were the members employed. Finally the ♂ soared up into the sky and disappeared when I approached within 20 yds. of the nest

Myiarchus crinitus, Emp. flaviventris
Ampelis cedrorum, 2nd arrival.
May 24 – 1875

and found a large shapeless mass of dry grasses collected on a little rise of the meadow but the ♀ at this moment perceiving me I retired afraid of exciting her suspicions. She came up within fifteen paces and squeaked at me loudly and seemed to have all fear in her indignation at my intrusion. I think the flight of warblers is nearly over. Yesterday noon I heard a ♂ Hel. peregrina singing in full blast in our garden. Saw a ♂ Myiarchus crinitus to day at Waverly and fired two shots at him from the pistol without success. Heard D. maculosa & My. Canadensis both singing. This song is very similar & equally unplaintive that of the latter differs in being more broken. Shot a ♂ D. Blackburniae & heard another singing. Saw a ♂ wild pigeon at Waverly. Found a nest of this bird at Weston with an egg, on the 22 inst. The Emp. flaviventris was among cedars & was very tame & entirely silent. Ampelis cedrorum appeared in numbers to day after the usual absence. Saw & heard numbers of Coccyzus Am. & Chry. pinus. Chry. tristis is now paired & in full summer plumage. The apple trees are in blossom & the forest trees were to day quite thick with incipient foliage – Sat. May 22 they were as bare as in winter.

1875.

May 25 Clear and oppressively warm with S.W. wind. Off by 8 A.M. driving up to Prospect St. when I tied. Shot only 8 birds the best My. fusillus ♀, D. discolor ♂, Vireo Nov. again. Saw a ♀ Hel. chrysoptera on the same place where I took the young last summer, and heard the ♂ singing not far off but would not shoot either as I hope to find the nest. Yesterday probably ended up the flight of northern birds as I saw only a very few species to day that do not breed with us, one each of Seiurus Nov. My. Canadensis et fusillus (?) D. striata I forgot; that is still common and I hear their feeble songs from one garden as I write (May 26). The transition from spring to summer — from leafless woods full of migrating warblers to masses of luxuriant foliage peopled with their characteristic summer species, has been most sudden this year. May 22nd the oaks & walnuts were entirely bare and showed almost no signs of the coming verdure that was to shade the ground beneath through the hot months, but in three days the change was accomplished, and now the apple blossoms are already beginning to fall. After dinner drove up to the red shouldered hawk's nest on Rock meadow taking Charlie to do the climbing. Found the bird sitting and although we walked ~~at~~ around the tree, beneath her and talked in loud tones she would not fly though by the anxious craning of her neck over the edge of the nest it was plain to

Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 25 See that she was perfectly aware of our presence. As soon as Charles started up the tree however she launched off and after a few wheels above us sailed off over the woods and disappeared. I could have shot her with ease but forbore to do so as I had little doubt but that the nest contained young. Charles however upon reaching it called down that there were two eggs and hoisting up my basket by means of a string he brought them safely down. Upon blowing them after reaching home I was much surprised to find them nearly fresh though still sufficiently incubated to assure me that they were all that the bird would have laid.

May 27 Clear and still, pretty hot at noon but with cool E. wind in the afternoon. Rose early and left the place at 6.45 driving directly up to the Lexington lane, where I tied my horse and struck at once into the woods. Found the 2nd nest of the pair of crows that I robbed Apr. 27th. It was about 100 yds from the original site and in a small slender pine about 20 ft. above the ground. The old bird flew off upon my shaking the tree and ascending I found 4 eggs (large embryos) which I took. The old birds kept circling about overhead out of gun range and three vociferous ravens soon summoned a third which joined in their clamor. Keeping on from this

1875

May 27 point I shot 6 birds during the forenoon 1 Hel. chrysoptera ♂, 2 ♂ H. ludoviciana, 1 ♂ Pyranga rubra, do Cy. cyanea, do Chordeiles popetue. The latter I happened to espy sitting perfectly still along the topmost (dead) branch of an apple tree in an orchard. It was nearly noon at the time and the rays of the sun very powerful, and getting up nearly under the bird I could see that its eyes were tightly closed. Firing ~~proved an distraction~~ at it I brought it to the ground wing broken and upon presenting my hand in front of it, it opened its mouth to the widest and uttered a singular murmuring rattle but without attempting any other defence. Heard a grouse drum and saw a ♂ Sy. Canadensis as well as a few D. striata: all the other migrants have disappeared. Found three nests of D. Penn. building. Returned in time for dinner. In P.M. walked up to the swamps and searched the "Brickyard" pine very carefully for rails nests but did not succeed in finding any and saw but a single rail, a R. Virginiana. The meadows were very dry and this condition of affairs may have induced the birds to leave the haunt. Took two sets of Melospiza fasciata containing respectively 4 and 5 eggs all fresh. Also two sets of Agelaius phoeniceus with 4 egg each, one set fresh the other slightly incubated. One of these latter was almost pendent in a tall bush over

Nests of Ard. exilis and A. phoeniceus
Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 27 the water, the other built between some upright slender stalks was hardly a foot above the ground and almost entirely concealed by a canopy of dry grasses. While wading nearly up to my waist in water I flushed an Ardetta exilis which rose from a clump of water plants and topping some alder disappeared. Armed as I was only with the little Stevens pistol I ~~refired~~ the flying shot and following on came across the bird perched on an tall bush over the water: as I caught sight of it it also saw me and with a feeble flutter essayed to rise, but apparently finding the twigs too thick resumed its perch again balancing itself on the slender branch with ~~much apparent~~ seeming difficulty and after watching it a moment I shot it. It proved a ♀ and judging from the swollen oviduct and the presence of two eggs in the ovaries as large as gooseberries I ~~judge~~ thought it probable that sets had already been laid though I was unable to find any signs of a nest when the bird rose. Distending the slender neck to a most noticeable degree was a young bream about four inches long: this fish was quite fresh and perfect and a careful examination revealed not the slightest scratch on its scaly form whence I infer that the bird must pick up its prey instead of spearing it with the bill. Saw a pair of Nycticorax Gardenii & heard Hylas singing

Nests of Pipilo erythrophthalmus and Cy. cristata
Hel. peregrina
May 29 — 1875 Middlesex Co., Mass

1875.
May 29 Cool with E. wind. The sun shone dimly all day being shrouded in a sort of sea fog such as frequently prevails on the coast but is rarely observed so far inland. Took the train for Concord last night with Henry Purdie & R. Deane and put up at the hotel where we were visited by Jim M. and W. Buttrick. Got off at 4 this morning and taking Jim's boat pulled up the Assabet river. A little above Egg rock we heard a Hel. peregrina singing with that persistant energy peculiar to the species and landing I shot him with the Stevens pistol. Hunting about here for several hours I found a nest of Pipilo erythrop. with 4 fresh eggs and shot a pair of My. canadensis, and a Lon. albicilla. Of the latter species I have not seen a specimen for over three weeks. Hiking on up river we found several nest of Tyrannus Carolinensis placed on horizontal branches low over the water, and I shot a ♂ My. pusillus that was singing in a small pine. Its song is rather feeble and devoid of character and expression and resembles somewhat that of Dend. coronata, with a little descending flirish at the termination however which renders it sufficiently distinct. Went up river as high as the "One arch" bridge and got back to town in time to take supper at the hotel and catch the 6.38 train home. Saw quite a number of My. Can.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 29 during the day also do. Sciurus nov. of which latter I shot two. All these birds have been gone from Cambridge's vicinity for several days. I found also a nest of Cyanura cristata built in an oak sapling and containing 3 fresh eggs. Also a nest of Corvus Am. in a pine, containing one young bird but a few days old. Dend. striata is still abundant everywhere. Maynard found a robins nest a few days since built in a stone wall and containing eggs.

May 31 Clear and a fine day. Rose at 6 and got off shortly after driving up to the Wellington lane where I left my horse and struck across to the swamp where F. P. Atkinson took two nests of Accipiter fuscus some years ago. Hunted all the pines most faithfully but not a nest in any of them, singularly enough not even an old crow's or squirrels. On the ways back stumbled upon a nest of Icteroides maculatus containing 2 eggs & ♂ of Pipilo erythrophthalmus with ♀. Both of these I left for full complements. The ♀ Icteroides was sitting and my first warning of her hidden treasure was given by her tumbling out almost under my feet, and with drooping wings, tottering legs, and all the feathers of the rump curiously raised, she ran some 20 yds yards away where she was joined by her mate and both standing motionless looked at me in perfect silence & with evident apprehension.

1875.

Emp. Traillii. Nests of T. mustelinus Coc. erythrophthalmus, P. philo erythr. T. ingoides machularius and D. Penn.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

May 31. The P. philo likewise sat very close, ~~but~~ quietly stealing off the nest when I was within ~~some~~ 4 ft. of it but without making use of any subterfuge to draw me away. When she thought I had discovered the nest she set up an angry Ch-wink & came quite near me again but upon my retiring her fears seemed to be allayed at once. I afterwards found a nest of Coc. erythrop. with the ♀ sitting upon one egg. Also found a wood thrush's nest with 4 eggs. Both birds kept flitting about me anxiously but with their habitual shyness, disappearing ~~upon~~ on my slightest movement. The nest was about 7 feet up in a small elm, not in a fork as ~~usual~~ but plastered against the side of the tree with an under support contributed by numerous clusters of small twigs which diverged from the main stem. Found also 4 nests of Dend. Penn. nearly ready for the eggs. Shot only a Turdus mustelinus ♂ (of the nest) & Hirundo horreorum ♀. Canada flycatchers were everywhere in abundance, I must have seen & heard 20, & I think the migration of that species & R. stricta is now at its height. Heard the fife of Emp. Traillii in Mr. Spilman's garden this morning but could not get a sight at the bird. Saw also a Lon. albicollis again to day. Had a fine shot at a ♂ marsh hawk but as it was within a rod of my nest I let him pass. The cherry apples & pear blossoms have all fallen

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 1 Clear but very cool with E. wind. Started for the swamps at 8 taking lunch with me and with other preparations for spending the whole day. As I entered the Brickyard swamp almost the first bird I heard was C. Grackle. His harsh gue-wishy varied to gue-queah or the high note pip came up from the water willow thicket almost unseen and if good spirits could be taken as an indication, he certainly seemed as much at home there as among the thickets of Bear river at Newry Me. Going in pursuit I shot him easily enough and had barely got him down up in his paper cone when I heard another; this one proved very shy and I chased him a full half hour before getting a shot. In the afternoon I heard a third in the Pine swamp but failed to secure or even get a sight at him. Crossing the Nat. Br. R.R. track I struck into the swamp again and found a nest of Ord. palustris with 5 eggs. It was built in the usual way in a cavity - so to speak - hollowed out in a bunch of old dry grass which canopied, and surrounded it on every side. The swamp sparrow creeps quietly out when you get within a few yards of her a slight rustling betraying her movements then as she gets a few yards away she gives a chip of uneasiness and goes to washing herself, drinking, or even feeding busily, keeping however a sharp eye on the intruder. The first time I saw this done I thought these actions real and simply the result of the birds indifference

1875. Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 1 with regard to the safety of the nest; but I am now sure that this indifference is entirely assumed and the bird only pretends to feed. Every bird of these nests has done precisely the same thing. There is no angry or anxious chirping, no excited fluttering or hopping about; the keen searching glance of that bright little hazel eye alone betrays the mothers intense apprehension. The moment I began to pack up the eggs and nest in my basket, the inefficacy of her little ruse seemed to become apparent to her, and fluttering hurridly up she would hop into the nest the instant I took my hand out of it though I was sitting within two feet of it. Even now there was no noise, no fuss; only one beseeching little cry for mercy, and then, almost the resolution to go with the nest. Keeping on I crossed the F.R.R. track finding nests of the red wing blackbirds at frequent intervals, but disturbing none of them. I examined 9 during the day 2 were hung among the bushes & 7 low down in tussucks: 8 had 4 eggs each, 1 contained only 3. Started two rails, one of each species: both rose with ease and flew nearly as fast as a snipe with legs drawn up, one of them going clear across the broad meadow at one fly. Next came across a little colony of marsh wrens & shot six them of each species (lost 1 stellaris). Though within a few rods of one another the long bills were as usual in the coarse sedge &

Haunt of the Night herons.

June 1 — 1875

June 1 the short bills among the fine meadow grass. The song of C. stellaris is chip, chip, tr-r-r-r the final trilled quite prettily. That of C. palustris is likewise a trill but very guttural & almost harsh: it reminds me exactly of the rattle of a chain pump but is less loud. Both species have a scolding chatter indistinguishable per se and very like that of Y. aedon. Their flight is slightly undulating and very short & feeble. C. palustris frequently mount straight up in the air to the hight of 15 ft or so, sings & then drops again into the grass. Found a partially constructed nest of C. palustris. Went struck into the maple swamp beyond Block is. where the night herons haunt and searched it through so thoroughly as to satisfy myself that the birds do not breed there. About 25 birds were roosting in the trees over the brook and I shot down three of them in three shots, as they flew over my head but two scaling off a short distance I lost, though I distinctly heard them crash through the leaves. The only one secured was in very worn faded immature pl. & showed no signs of breeding. Afterwards I searched all the other woods on or near the meadows & am now sure that these birds do not breed here at all, & are probably barren individuals. About half were immature. On the brook saw a single Tringa minutilla and this evening heard the notes of these birds as they passed over our place, and have heard them before several times lately. Crossing the brook & entering the maple swamp on the further side

Nel. Lincolnii, E. flaviventris My. Canadensis
Nests of T. fuscescens, S. auricilla S. trichas & B. virescens
Evening flight of the king bird

1875.

June 1. I searched it carefully and found a nest of Seth. auricilla 3 eggs fresh, & one of D. aestiva, both built in upright forks of maples 20 feet up. Took the sed starts & shot the ♀ (which had a 4th egg nearly ready for the shell) Found also here a nest of Turdus fuscescens built at the point of junction of three or four maple trunks, & about 3 ft. up. 4 eggs fresh. Finished my days work in the pine swamp where I took a nest of T. fuscescens built on the ground among skunk cabbage, a S. trichas do 3 eggs & 1 of M. pecoris, found & left a nest of Butor. virescens 1 egg, shot a ♂ My. Canadensis, ♀ Nel. Lincolnii and saw a E. Traillii & E. flaviventris. Also much to my surprise started up a Scol. ferrugineus among some bushes: it looked like a ♀ and after I left the swamp I could still hear its unmistakable cackle. Reached the house by 6 P.M. and as I came down through the garden saw a very dark T. aliciae bathing under the showering spray of a hose. A pair of Pyranga Ear. are building in our orchard and every evening after sunset, the ♂ (I think) rises into the air at a considerable height and then plunges and dashes about as if crazy uttering his cries incessantly. This I have noticed elsewhere, the habit appears to correspond to the somewhat similar one of E. minimus & some other birds, Cy. cyanea included. This latter species I hear regularly every evening & his song is more than usually tender & beautiful. My. Canadensis was in every thicket. I saw over 20. Heard one S. noveboracensis

138
MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Nests of Tringoides mac. Pipilo, Coccygus ery.
D. Pennsylvanica

1875

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 3 Clear but rather cool with fresh S. E. wind. Rose at 6 and got off as soon as possible. Charles drove me up to the Wellington lane where I took the three nests found & left on May 31 and sent them home in the buggy. They contained Tri. macularius, 4 eggs. Pipilo, 3. Coccygus erythrop. 5. The latter birds must have laid 4 eggs between Monday at 11 A.M. and Thursday at 8 A.M. This I have had happen with the other species which deposited 2 eggs between 4.30 A.M. and 7 the previous evening, or in 9½ hours. The Tringoides sat very close and simulated lameness more energetically than before. Drove home & struck across country towards Belmont reaching the spring near Rogers St. by noon and taking lunch there. In the morning found three nests of D. Pennsyl., two with 3 eggs each, the other with 1 egg & 1 of the cowbird. The 2 D. Penn. is a very close sitter; one may almost touch her on the nest before she will start. The ♂ usually sings within less than 100 yds of his mate & nest. Found and took two nests of Coccygus erythrop. the first with 5 eggs; the 2nd with three. In all three sets taken to day, one egg was incubated considerably while the others were quite fresh. A fresh cuckoo's egg blows like a rotten egg, white yolk & all come out mixed together in one squirt; incubated a few days the white (so called) becomes quite hard and is of a grass green color. One of these nests was so small and flat that the eggs seemed on the point of rolling out or rather off. The birds at this quite closely and uttered the usual cocrotaroo after being frightened off

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Nest of G. trichas. S. aurocapillus & Carpodacus purpureus.

1875. E. flaviventris Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 3 Found two nests of G. trichas, one with 3 eggs was built among ferns and by its own exterior bulk raised nearly a foot above the ground; the other contained four fresh eggs and was placed in the very top of a high ground juniper at least 3 ft. above the ground. The ♀s of both flew off very quietly and did not in either instance show themselves again or make any plaint. Took also two nests of Seiurus aurocapillus; finding both by accidentally stumbling upon them and starting the ♀ off. In the first instance she ran quietly and rapidly a few rods then commenced tumbling about with spread wings; in the second I put my foot down within four inches of the entrance to the nest and upon the bird's tail as she started off, pulling out nearly a handful of feathers and smashing an egg which she had probably rolled out in her hasty exit. The first set contained five eggs, the second four, all fresh. Past the afternoon had very meager success. Went to my Carpodacus nest in Waverly (found on the 24 ult) and found the ♀ sitting on 5 perfectly fresh eggs. Found only one nest of interest — a small beautifully constructed one on the branch of a yellow pine some 30 ft up; it was empty and will I think prove to belong to either V. viridis or V. pusillus. Shot Emp. flav. ♂, in wild apple, turned silent, My. Can. ♂ & E. minimus ♀. Heard only one or two other M. Can. the last of the season

Nest of Circus-cyaneus Hudsonius

1875.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 5 Clear and very hot with S. wind. Started off at 8 in my buggy and drove up into the willows, taking my Tonks bridle. Went directly in to my marsh hawk's nest and when within about 15 yds. the ♀ rose from the nest and made off screaming shrilly gree gree gree, until my heavy charge of No 6 stopped her. The nest contained four eggs, all spotless, and but one tinged slightly with green. The nest was placed flat on the ground in a dry meadow, and at the foot of a small clump of bushes but not among them. There was scarcely if any depression in the centre where the eggs lay and the whole affair looked slovenly and unkempt: though the grasses composing the lining if lining it could be called were perhaps "circularly arranged", they were not, certainly, "interwoven" in any way. The exterior was composed of sticks many of them large the interior wholly of dry grass; no feathers, in fact nothing else whatever. Packing the eggs in my basket and propping up the dead ♀ on the nest I concealed myself in a thicket of bushes within good range and awaited the return of the male. In the course of perhaps ten minutes I heard his kep kep kep overhead and looking up espied him sailing about at an immense height, so high indeed that he looked no larger than a barn swallow. A crow was whirling about him and a Buteo lineatus that was sailing apparently in his company, and the trio soon

1875.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 5 mettled out of sight in the distance and although I lay in ambush for more than an hour he did not return. Taking the nest and ♀ bird I returned to the wagon finding a newly finished nest of Pyranga rubra by the way, and reached the house in time for dinner. Heard Empidonax flaviventris and saw two Seiurus noveboracensis. D. stricta is still with us in small numbers. Upon blowing the hawks eggs found two perfectly fresh, the other two with a slight bloody streaks marking the incipient embryo. The stomach of the ♀ bird contained a nearly whole Arvicola riparia. Among the intestines were a few small whitish worms. Took a nest of E. minimus in our garden. Eggs incubated about a week.

June 7 Cloudy all day with E. wind and driving fog. Heavy thunder shower in P.M. after which a rain storm set in and lasted all night, a grateful boon, as we have not had so much as a sprinkle before for many week. Off by 7, Charles driving me up to the hill. Devoted the day to searching for prairie warbler's nests, but found only two, 4 eggs each.
Both then were in the old spot where I have taken them every season, and although I heard many males singing elsewhere in good looking places, I could find no other nests. The ~~great~~ proportion

Nesting habits of D. discolor

Myiarchus crinitus

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 7. of these males must have been without mates and I think this state of affairs obtains oftener among birds of this species than any other. Both of my nests were in rather exceptional situations — in low scattering barberry bushes, away from the thick clumps, and not over (the nests) 3 ft above the ground. One of them was so so conspicuously placed that it was impossible to pass within 30 yds. without seeing it. Neither of the ♀ birds sat as closely as is their wont and one gave me much trouble before I could get a satisfactory glympse of her: she would dart off the nest before I could get nearer than 20 ft. to it, and then fly over 100 yds into some cedar woods where I invariably lost her, but finally at the fourth attempt by carefully creeping up, I obtained a fair sight at her before she started off the nest. The ♀ of the other nest started off nearly as highly but soon came back and commenced chirping at me. The nest of this bird cradled between three or four upright stems of the barberry, covered as the bush is at this date by its beautiful pendant blossoms, presents a most elegant appearance. The ♀ sits very deep, her back being much below the level of the rim of the nest. Heard the loud shrill wheep of My. crinitus, but could not get a sight at him. Found a nest of Sp. pusilla sunk in the ground under a ground juniper spray: it contained 4 eggs far advanced: a nest of Bocycyzus erythrop.

1875.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 7 in a barberry with one young bird & 2 eggs one quite fresh, other far advanced with chick stuffed. Found also a nest of Cont. virens newly finished, 2 D. Pennsyl. with 2 eggs each & took a third, found on the 3rd with 4 eggs. Found a nest of Emp. minimus on the horozontal branch of a yellow pine 20 ft up and almost in the very spot where Henry H. & I examined one in 1870. Have not seen a single Trochilus colubris since the migration & then only one or two. Cyanospiza cyanea is also very scarce as well as Toc. Americanus, C. erythrop. is more than ordinarily abundant. The forest trees are now in full leaf and the season progressing rapidly. Musquitos fairly swarm this summer in the woods, and are a great pest. Chry. pinus has been abundant in the apple orchards during the past week. Previous to that I have seen none since some time in the winter; like the crossbills this movements seem utterly unexplainable, and beyond the possibilities of conjecture as to governing cause & motive.

June 8 Clear and not very warm. Rose late wrote up my journal and started at 11 A.M. for the green heron's nest that I left in the pine swamp but arriving there found the whole affair gone. On the way back took a turn in the Maple swamp near Fresh Pond crossing, and while making my way through the thick bushes ~~[illegible]~~ across a ♀ Goldfinch's Phil. and shot her, but at so close range that

Geothlypis Philadelphia
Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.
June 8

Nest of Dend. virens

as a specimen she was nearly worthless. She was very tame and chipped at me in exactly the same tone as an indigo bird, and so anxiously that I more than half suspected she had a nest somewhere in the vicinity; upon dissection however I found the ovaries but slightly enlarged, little more so in fact than in a fall bird. Heard several birds of both species and shall make another effort for their nests. After dinner had my horse harnessed and drove up to Waverley where I found my combination knife which I lost a week ago. Also visited a nest in a yellow pine which I climbed to on the 3rd inst (p. 139) and found empty. To my great delight I found a ♀ D. virens sitting upon it and again ascending discovered that it contained a beautiful set of 4 fresh eggs and one of M. pecoris. The ♀ flew off before I got half way up the tree and beyond an occasional chirp and a shy peep at me now and then from a neighboring red cedar, she evinced but little anxiety. The nest was saddled upon a horizontal limb about 6 ft. from the main trunk, 20 from the ground and perhaps 3/4 way up as the tree grew. Continuing on I visited five nests of D. Pens. discovered at different times and most of them in the town of Lex'n. Found two robbed, one deserted with one egg, a fourth with four and the fifth with five eggs. Also found

MASS. (Middlesex Co)

1875.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 8 another nest with 4 eggs well advanced. Three of these nests were in barberry bushes ~~two~~ in hazel and the remaining one in a bush unknown to me. None were over 4 ft above the ground. The ♀ of this species sits closer than any bird I know. I looked at one steadily for several minutes with my face within less than a foot of her: her beautiful dark eyes returned my glance steadily enough but the rapidly pulsating beats of her heart were plainly visable and betrayed her fear. When started off the nest they made no boisterous plaint but with drooping wings and spread tail remained within a few yards of me as if desiring to put in a mute appeal for mercy. Northern migrants all gone except Chip. Finns which I heard again to day. Last D. striata on the 6th inst.

June 10 Clear and warm. Rained in torrents all day yesterday and last night and the newspapers report a fall of 5 inches. This is the first rain that we have had for many weeks. After this morning struck up into the swamps and hunted hard for rails nests but did not find any though I saw and heard many of the birds. The water in the swamps was very high at least 12 inches higher than before the rain. Found 4 nests of Mel. palustris in one little corner of the swamp.

146
MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875.

Ardetta exilis ♂. Nests of N. robustus

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 10 The first two contained five young each, all nearly able to fly. In one nest however four out of the five were cold and stiff—killed by the rain, while the sole survivor sat on top of the mortal heap and chirped loudly for food. The other two nests contained 4 & 6 eggs respectively all perfectly fresh. These latter were evidently second nests of the two that I robbed May 27th & June 1st (nests "B/5" and "D/5") as they were placed within 20 yds of the original sites. The first was built in the top of a tussock the other under a canopy of dry grasses. Found also a nest of G. trichas with 4 nearly fresh eggs. It was raised above the water to the height of about 12 inch. and supported between the stems of a small bush. While wading about in this swamp a fine adult ♂ Ardetta exilis started from the top of a water willow where he had been sitting and flying a few rods lit again in a tall bush: as I cautiously approached him he peered at me with outstretched neck and walked out along the branch a few steps exactly as I have seen the green heron do. finally getting within long range I shot him dead with the Stevens pistol. His stomach was entirely empty, the testes at the maximum state of development. I have little doubt but that he was the mate of the ♀ I shot on the 27th ult. Here I also came across a pair of Rallus Vir. that were accompanied by a brood of young. Both the old birds were very bold coming up within ten feet of me and

Nest of S. sutcilla Young of Rana Virginiana

1875. Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 10 uttering continually a single angry squeal that reminded me of the cry of young pig when startled. I could not find any of the chicks but upon moving off a little distance I soon heard their feeble lisping as they called to one another and their parents: this same lisp is indistinguishable from that of the young of Carolina as heard last season. In the maple swamp I found nest of Seth. sutcilla 3 fresh eggs & one of E. virginiana with 4 ditto. The former was in rather an exceptional situation in the fork of a low thick bush about 3 ft. above the ground. This morning while walking up Sparks St. I heard a most deafening racket in Dr. Wyman's pond and going in found about 20 spade footed toads floating about on its surface. Many of them were paired and copulating while the single males employed their time in bellowing like so many "bulls of Bashan" floating on the surface and at each cry distending the loose skin of the throat like the Bufo Am. under similar circumstances. Procuring a net at the house I caught three pairs which I put in a tub of water in my room. They remained attached to each other all that day and the following night when they separated and I found that the ♀'s had deposited large quantities of spawn, differing in appearance not at all from that of the toads & frogs at large. The ♀'s were

Spade footed toads - their notes and habits June 10 - 1875

June 10 at least 1/3 larger than their mates. While the spawn was being laid the ♂ clung to the ♀ clasping her tightly around the loins: if pulled forcibly apart the would immediately resume this contact upon being put back into the tank. All through the day and night of the 10th they sang incessantly in the pond above mentioned as well as in Mr. Hubbard's opposite & in that on the Winchester place, but by the next day all was still and we have not heard them since. As nearly as I can ascertain they were not heard in any of the above spots previous to the morning of the 10th so that they were out only a day & night. The last time that I heard them before this was some time in the spring of 1866 or '67 & in the same pond (Dr. W's). All the nests that I found to day were thoroughly soaked by the heavy rain.

June 11 Clear and warm with good breeze however. Took the 6.18 train to Lincoln and walked from there to Concord, spending the whole day searching in the woods for nests. My first find was a nest of Picus Jubesens, in an old orchard. The ♀ was sitting on three eggs which were on the point of hatching. The entrance hole was as usual very small and neat. The interior cavity descended 5 inches and had an average diameter of about 3. The old bird did not come out until I

Col. Henslowi, Nests of S. aurocapillus, Hal. rufus, Turdus fus. & Picus pubescens.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.

June 11 made an aperture on a level with the eggs and poked her quite forcibly with my finger. Next saw a pair of Vireo solitarius on the shore of Sandy pond and watched the ♂ into the nest. It was but partially completed and was in a very exposed situation being hung from the topmost twig of a white pine sapling not over 5 ft high. Continuing on I saw numbers of Pyranga rubra and shot 5 males but found only one nest & that empty. Saw also three ♂ Hel. chrysoptera. One of them sang invariably either zee de de de de or zee de de de de de — never less than 4 final syllables. Heard a ♂ Mg. Canadensis singing vigorously in the swamp where they annually bred but could not find the nest. Took three nests of S. aurocap. two with 4 the third with 5 eggs all pretty well advanced. Also found a nest of Hor. rufus sunk in the ground under the roots of a scrub oak with 2 eggs and a nest of T. fuscescens very prettily placed in an old fallen oak top among the dead leaves and on the top of a hill. Late in P.M. I struck into John Moore's meadow and soon heard the ch-ip of my old friend Col. Henslowi. Found two males and both evidently had nests as they chirped at me continuously as long as I remained near the place: did not shoot at

Nest of Vireo Noveboracensis

1875.

Middlesex Co., Mass.

June 11 either as I shall try for the nest again next week. Striking across the fields for the station I heard another & singing and chasing him about for a few minutes finally shot him with the pistol. On one occasion I stepped up on a tussock and found him squatted flat on the mud beneath me like a snipe or a woodcock. This bird was in a little sedgy sink in a pasture where I never saw one before though I have often been through the place. Then I heard singing all at once C. Henslowi, C. passerinus and P. Savanna. Took the 6.35 train home.

June 14 Clear and cold with high N.W. wind. Thr. at sunrise only 40° and heavy frosts reported from portions of N.H. Rose early and got off by 7, Charles driving me up to the foot of the Belmont hill. Hunted for the nest of a pair of Bonasa umbellus which have frequented the old haunt there all the spring but the birds had apparently gone and I could find no indications of a nest. From thence struck up by the mill ponds and over into Waltham. Hunted for some time very carefully for the nest of a pair of Vireo Noveboracensis that I had seen in a certain spot in May and finally found it suspended prettily between the forks of a hazel and about 2 ft high. The ♀ was sitting on 4 perfectly fresh eggs and

Egg of Coc. Am. in nest of C. Erythrophthalmus. Nest of Pyranga rubra

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Middlesex Co., Mass.

1875.

June 14 allowed me to part the leaves within two inches of the nest before she started off. The male was singing Pee-wee'it some 20 yds. off. When the ♀ fairly realized that her domicile was discovered she commenced an angry chatter in very much the same key as Thrasaedon but the male kept on singing unconcernedly and did not put in his appearance with his mate. Continuing on found a nest of Coc. erythrophthalmus with two eggs of that bird & one of C. Americanus. All three eggs were fresh and each was pierced by a small hole in the side but the contents still intact. The identity of the nest was established beyond doubt by numerous tail and wing feathers of the parent lying in and about it. Evidently the sitting bird had been seized and devoured on the spot by some rapacious bird, probably an owl, and the eggs left without a protector, were pierced by a jay or other bird. Next visited the Pyranga's nest found on the 5th inst, and found the ♀ sitting on 4 eggs. She allowed me to climb nearly to the nest before starting off when she down almost perpendicularly to the ground and made off with drooping wings & spread tail. Soon the appeared with her mate and both set up an angry chip chase which they continued, so long as I remained in the vicinity. Charles took one up at 1 and I reached

Nest of Tantopus viens. Poor notes of the quail.

June 14 the house in time for dinner. P.M. started off again and drove up into Prospect St. where I tied and visited the nest of Tantopus viens found on the 7th inst. It contained two eggs which I took. The parent birds sat in a neighboring oak and looked on as I despoiled their treasure with perfect apparent unconcern. Took a nest of V. Penn. found the same date & with (today) 4 eggs. Started a ♀ grouse with a brood of young. She made a great fuss fluttering along the ground a making a piteous noise exactly like a dog when whining for admittance at a closed door. I saw only one chick but presume there are more. it was apparently about a week old. Quail are very abundant. I see or hear them every day. Sometimes the male calls Bob White continuously ten or ~~at~~ dozen times in succession & without the slightest interval between the ordinarily separate utterances. Their moans are apparently at their height as they are very noisy now so than I ever observed them to be before. All the fall notes are freely used.

June 15 Clear and rather warm. Met Harry Bailey at Watertown by appointment and taking the train to Waltham we spent the day in that town hunting for nests, and late in the afternoon walked down through Waverly to Adams Place where we took the horse car home. Had most miserable luck taking

Vireo solitarius, Brood of young
Cock

1875.

June 15 absolutely nothing worthy of mention. Found two nests of Vireo olivaceus (4 & 3 eggs well advanced); a nest of Seth. cuticilla 4, well along; and a nest of D. virens in a yellow pine about 20 ft. up, with the lining torn out, and empty: the ♂ was singing near the spot and probably the 2ond nest was somewhere near. Found a pair of Vireo solitarius in a piece of heavy timber and a few strips of bark etc. attached to a pendant oak twig about the height of one's head indicated perhaps the site of the future nest. Stumbled upon a brood of four cock in a tall maple & oak growth near a brook. Two of the young rose first with the old ♀ and kept the two remaining young. They were lying close together but scattered in all directions at the first rise. Marking one of the young birds carefully I flushed him again when he went off in good style for some 200 yds. At this the mother bird which had disappeared at the first alarm over a knoll, came back and flying slowly by with dangling legs lit within ten yards and with wings wide spread fluttered off over the leaves trying poor thing to induce us to follow her. The young were about two-thirds grown or the size of an English sparrow. Neither they nor the parent produced any audible whistling ~~when~~ in flying. I think this is the 2ond clutch of the same parents that I robbed of their eggs in Apr.

1875.

First day of trip to Mts. Wachusett & Monadnock with J. C. Melvin
June 16 — 1875.

June 16 Cloudless but very smoky. Not very warm. Left Cambridge at 10.15 and arrived at Concord at 12.15 when I put up my horse and took dinner with Jim M. On the way up found a nest of Py. rubra on ~~an~~ oak bough overhanging the road and standing up on the seat of my buggy I ascertained that it contained two eggs, which I left in hopes of more on my return. Also saw a quail in the road near Hardy's pond, which running along ahead in the road, easily kept ahead of my trotting horse for a considerable distance. At 1.35 we left Concord in my buggy with Jim's horse for the motive power. The road passes through the villages of Assabet, Stow, Bolton, Lancaster, Sterling & Princeton to the ~~half or~~ Mountain house half way up Wachusett where we pulled up at 7.30 P.M. From Concord to Sterling the road is very good and the scenery more than usually beautiful, though perfectly typical of Mass. The remaining 8 miles are very hard ones—almost one continuous hill. Sturnella magna was abundant all the way up but was not seen I think beyond Princeton. A single quail was heard in Stow and two others at the foot of the mountains in Princeton. The first Tyrannus tyrannus I saw about a mile E. of the latter town. Had a first rate supper and spent the evening on the piazza of the Mountain house. Had a slight shower at 7 P.M. Antrostomus vociferus heard singing near the house. Distance from Concord, 35 miles.

1875.
June 17 Cloudless but very smoky & somewhat warm in forenoon. Started up the mountain immediately after breakfast. The distance to the summit is 3/4 of a mile but we occupied nearly an hour in getting over it, stopping often by the way to listen to some bird or examine the ferns of which very many beautiful and varied forms abounded. The entire upper half of the mountain is covered with a dense 2nd growth of oak, walnut birch and maple, their comparative abundance ranking nearly in the order in which they are named. Near the summit the rather stunted growth of the first constitutes almost exclusively the arborescent vegetation and here I was much pleased in detecting the first typical forms ~~peculiar~~ of the Canadian flora in the bunch berry, (in full blossom) abundant; and the spruce, of which about 40 stunted examples were noticed. Hopping about the door of the "Pip top" house were two or three phoebes and I heard the notes of several other males in the neighborhood. Here we also saw a beautiful fascard in full blossom and abundance of the snow wood so common in Mt. Of birds all over the mountain & common were T. fuscescens, Pipilo erythr. Hair. rufus, Ny. crinitus (clayae), Dend. virens and Hel. ruficapilla. Pyranga rubra excessively abundant up to within some 500 ft. of the summit. Cy. cyanea do. still down down, a very few Contopus virens

1875

June 17 and also a single Picus villosus and Vireo solitarius, the two latter with Hy. crinitus not being noted afterwards during our progress towards & into N.H. At 3 P.M. we left the Mountain house after a good dinner and made the town of Rindge ~~by~~ N.H. by 7.30 P.M. a distance of about 24 miles, passing through Westminster depot, and Ashburnham. Very quickly does the flora and to a certain extent the fauna, change after leaving Massachusett. Spruces, larches and firs ~~freely~~ now now freely intermingled with the more cosmopolitan birches and maples, the bunch berry grew along the roadside everywhere and the hermit thrush became one of the commonest birds. A few miles N. of Ashburnham and I think within our State line the road passed through a large swamp—just such a swamp as in Me would harbor the spruce grouse and the Canada jay, and here stopping a moment to listen I was much pleased at hearing a ♂ Dend Blackburnian in full song and undoubtedly breeding. At this place we also listened a long time to that most delicious of all bird melody, the song of the hermit thrush; the bird was I think the finest performer that I ever heard and the notes of his calm, lofty reverie were ~~also calm and~~ given with a depth and clearness of intonation absolutely faultless. Passing several beautiful ponds (when the loons ~~are~~ were told bed, we put up for the night at the Rindge hotel

Third day - From Rindge to Jaffrey.

1875
June 17 Kept by one Sheldon. Here we first heard of the porcupine which we were informed was found sparingly in the neighborhood. Heard another Antrootomus this evening.

June 18 Rose this morning to find it raining in torrents with a high wind from the Eastward. Spent the forenoon in the barn, gossiping with mine host and the town loafers who dropped in at frequent intervals to exchange congratulations on the heavy rain which they said was badly needed and would do much good. At 11 A.M. we had the team harnessed and drove to Jaffrey distant 6 miles where we arrived in time for dinner. On the road saw a bittern and heard a Mg. Canadensis There are four hotels in the place but on selection the Central house, was I think the best, and we were soon made supremely comfortable in a large old fashioned corner room with a blazing wood fire on the hearth. In the afternoon to kill time we made a call on a retired horse jocky in the neighborhood, and were much amused by his grotesque idioms of speech and independant originality of manner. He had some very fine animals in his stable but was unwilling to part with them at any but ruinous figures. Retired early in evening.

Fourth day. Ascent of Monadnock Mt. Drive to Groton

1875.

July 19 Clear with frequent intervals of clouds, and much haze. Started immediately after breakfast & drove to the Mountain house half way up Monadnock, where we left our team and ascended the rest of the way on foot. The path was very steep and the walking difficult. Reaching the summit we found the view almost as badly obscured by haze as that from Wachusett on the 17th inst. So we soon satisfied our curiosity and reached the Central house by 1.30 P.M. Monadnock is every inch a mountain, 3,800 ft. above the sea, and with a fine picturesque outline. All arborescent vegetation ceases some 300 ft. below the summit which is rocky and windswept with a few grasses ferns etc. growing in the hollows. Above or at the edge of the timber line were heard Juncos hyemalis, P. pilo erythrop. Goothlypis trichas, & Helmin. ruficapilla. Lower down Dend. virens, Parus atricapillus, Turdus migratorius, & Spizella socialis. Below the Mountain house Dendroicas maculosa, Pennsylvanica et Blackburniae (one of each, the latter shot) and in the pasture land near the barn Poocetes gramineus. In a little hollow among the rocks above the sharply defined timber line were a few stunted shrub oaks and here we singing Vireo ruficapilla, P. pilo ery. and G. trichas. The latter bird seemed abundant all over the mountain and their songs were I thought very different from those of our lowland birds, ending as they

1875
June 19 did in a peculiarly rich wild warble. Both the D. maculosa and the Blackburnian were in full song and undoubtedly breeding. In the afternoon drove 25 miles through New Ipswich and Townsend to Groton where we put up for the night at the Central house, kept by a Mr. Hoar. In a larch swamp 5 miles S. E. from Jaffrey I heard E. Traillii distinctly, and at Townsend Vireo gilvus and Dend. aestiva were noted for the first time since leaving Princeton. I did not see or hear Rhiptitta varia anywhere in N. H. Carpodacus purpureus was seen or heard in nearly every village during the trip.

Sunday June 20 Cloudless and warm. Spent the forenoon strolling about the town which is very beautiful with rows of fine old elms and substantial looking residences. At 3 P.M. ~~after~~ started for home and got into Concord by 6.30. After supper had my horse harnessed and with Jim drove out to Mr. Pratt's farm. Mr Pratt is a botanist and showed us a number of rare ferns that he had brought from different places and transplanted on his farm. He pointed out a hole in a huge elm which overshadowed the house when ~~at least~~ 40 ft above the ground, a pair of Scops Asio had this season bred; ~~three~~ young had been seen in the tree this morning.

Sixth day — Drive from Concord to Cambridge. Nests of Vireo solitarius et olivaceus and Pyranga rubra.

1875

June 21 Clear and very warm. Left Concord at 9.30 A.M. and arrived at Cambridge by 12. Stopped first to examine the tanagers nest in Lincoln woods which I discovered on the 16th. The ♀ was sitting and as in the case of the one examined last week fluttered directly down to the ground upon being started off. She had laid the usual complement of eggs, which although incubated but 4 days at the outside, had chicks all formed. Next visited the Vireo solitarius' nest at Sandy pond found on the 11th inst. It contained 4 beautiful eggs upon which the ♂ parent was sitting. He allowed me to almost touch him with my hand, then starting off he lit in an oak near by and commenced at once singing most energetically continuing without intermission during the time that I occupied in packing the eggs etc. The ♀ I did not see at all and when I left the grove the ♂ was still singing steadily (Vide p. 149) A nest of Vireo olivaceus in an oak within ten yards of the V. solitarius, also found nearly completed on the 11th contained 4 eggs incubated 3 or 4 days. A little West of Hardy's pond I came across a ♀ grouse with a brood of about a dozen young feeding in the road and stopping the horse suddenly enjoyed a fine opportunity of watching the pretty little fellows. They ran about exactly like so many newly hatched chickens: sometimes one would find a seed or other

1875

Young Ruffed Grouse
Nest of Hydemoles Ludoviciana

June 21 Savory mossal and start off, hotly pursued by two or three envious and less fortunate companions. The old hen walked along slowly with a firm erect tread and once hopped up on a fallen log and called out cruck, c-a-ro-uck, to collect her scattered brood, which came running in at the summons, from all directions. They were I should think about a week old, and when I finally drew up, all took wing and flew up onto a stone wall and into low bushes etc. & upon my remaining quiet a few moments began to lisp out in a high anxious key, seree, seree, screep. While watching these birds I saw a ♀ Hydemoles Ludoviciana go into a nest which was but partially completed. Spent the P.M. in writing, blowing eggs etc.

June 23 Clear and warm. Off after breakfast driving up to Prospect St where I tied and spent the forenoon hunting for the second nests of the D. discolor found on the 7th inst. but although one of the ♂ was singing in the old spot I could not find the nest. Saw young or wing of Thr. rufus, Coccyzus erythrophthalmus, and Mel. melodia. Got in to dinner. A ♀ Cy. cyanea has built two nests in an garden and deserted both shortly after completion, in the 2nd case after laying one egg. The first nest was in a pear tree, 2nd in a lilac

 Breeding habits of the marsh wrens

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875

June 26 Clear and cool with E. wind. Off after breakfast striking up to the Block in meadow where I searched a long time for marsh wrens nest. Finally found one of C. palustris with 5 fresh eggs. The birds were quite plenty and almost everywhere where I found a ♂ singing I quickly discovered several false nests. In one place I found 4 within an area of ten yards. Some were built in the top of a tussock, others among coarse sour grass or flags all very conspicuous and lined with wool. The nest containing the eggs was suspended between the stalks of some rather fine grasses and lined with fine grass a little down, and a few feathers. It was quite as conspicuous as any of the false ones, and within ten yards was one of that description. The male begins to scold as soon as you approach any of the nests and I think his mate leaves her eggs at the first alarm as I shot a ♀ in another place, which had evidently been incubating a long time but which flew out of the meadow when her mate signaled my presence and took to a thicket of alders on a hill side. C. stellaris was also abundant in the same meadow & I shall try again for their nests. The song of C. palustris varies but the most common version is crik sick, a-sick-a-sick-a-sick. In V. M. visited the spot in Waltham where with Bailey I saw a pair of Vireo solitarius on the 15th inst. Searching a little while I found it suspended from a maple twig 8 ft up and 3 from the trunk of the tree. The ♀ was sitting and cut

Nest of Vireo solitarius
Cackling of Porzana Carolina

June 26 the last moment flew up into a neighboring tree and commenced chattering scoldingly & like V. flavifrons. This brought the ♂ and both scolded me persistently while I was taking the eggs. The latter were four, nearly fresh. Last evening while sitting on "the reservoir" I heard a rail calling in the meadow below cutter, cutter, gua, gua; or sometimes cut, cut, gnar gnar. This harsh and somewhat vibrating termination to the ordinary cackling note of P. Carolina I have never heard before and although I have but little question of the identity of the author with that species, I shall still endeavor to be at some pains to verify the fact.

July 5 Clear and hot. Thm. 90° at noon. Rose at 5 A.M. and with C. Carter drove up to the Wassey run where we left the horse (Katie) tied in the road and beat for woodcock. Put up three birds of which I killed one and Charlie two. The two first we started in very thick cover on a hillside near a run and killed by very hard snap shots. The other lay among long grass in a little open meadow. All were birds of the year, very full grown and in good condition. Met Mr. Flagg & another gentleman. They had started two birds but had bagged nil. From here we drove over to Cotton's where we put up the horse and after taking a rest

1875
July 5 & several hours, set out again and beat the Rum behind Browns but without seeing any birds though we found borings etc. Many birds are yet in full song. On July 2nd I visited a nest of Hy. Ludoviciana found building on the 21st ult. and took it with one egg which appeared to be the complement as it contained a small embryo and the presence of both birds in the vicinity sufficiently evinced that the nest had not been disturbed or robbed.

July 8 Took the 4 P.M. train yesterday with J.W.T. Nichols for "the Cape", and arrived at W. Barnstable at 6.40. Found Mr. Jones at the depot and by 7.30 we were put down at Capt. Baxters. This morning started off with the Capt. in "the Star" and spent the whole day on the water. Returning came around the island through South bay until when opposite Osterville we were becalmed and had to row in the rest of the way. As the sun was setting the scenery was most lovely — everything so peacefully quiet and beautiful. The most characteristic birds in the Rum were evidently D. pina, Y. pallasii, G. trichas and Pipilo erythr. their abundance ranking in the order in which I have named them. D. pina is surprisingly numerous; I frequently heard three males singing at once near each other. Next in abundance comes Parula Am.

1875.
July 8 and last Dud. discolor of which I noted two males. Fulicactus americanus a quite common and I saw five or six mostly immature birds: Capt. B. says they breed on the ponds back in the woods. In the open country Pooecetes gramineus and Sturnella magna with Ortyx Vir. are the most abundant forms. The aggregate ~~density~~ number of species, excluding of course littoral and oceanic varieties, must be exceedingly small. Spent most of the day trolling for blue fish with Buck's spoon and rod and reel but only struck one, a fine fish which I played for five or ten minutes but which ultimately escaped.

July 9 Clear and warm. Off at 8 A.M. in the Star, Nichols not feeling well and remaining on shore. Spent the entire day on the water fishing for blue fish of which, ~~I got~~ as yesterday, I hooked a large one and after some fine play lost. While sailing quietly through a narrow channel came upon a Butorides virescens fishing: he crawled rather than walked along the mud flats with neck drawn in, bearing a striking resemblance to a huge mud turtle: at frequent intervals he would shoot out his bill almost horizontally and judging by the wallowing motion that succeeded, nearly every thrust was successful. Another beautiful sunset, hermit thrushes singing most glorriously.

Ardetta exilis - breeding habits of.

(Middlesex Co.)

1875

July 10 Clear and cool. Spent the forenoon in sailing about the bay and took the 2.35 train for Boston. I forgot to mention Sterna paradisea and Larus atricilla both of which I saw yesterday off the mouth of the harbor. The terns were not nearly so abundant as last season

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July 13 Clear and warm. Ther. 88° at noon. In the forenoon took a walk up through the swamps to visit a goldfinch's nest found on the 26th ult. (which by the way was to day deserted and empty). In the lower or brickyard swamp I shot startled a last bittern which flew but a short distance as usual alighted in a bush where it sat peering at me with out stretched neck and the moment that I moved withdrawing its head behind the bushes. After watching it some little time I shot and killed it at long range. Being obliged to make a long circuit to get to where it fell what was my surprise to see another flying high up over the swamp with legs drawn up behind, and proceeding in a leisurely manner with steady flapping ~~like~~ in the manner of the heron tribe generally. Before this bird was out of sight a third rose some 50 yds off utering a loud incessant Ca-Ca-Ca-Ca as it got up and continuing it some time from the top of a thick alder where it finally. This latter bird was a ♀ and her actions soon convinced me that the

1875

July 13 had either eggs or young in the vicinity. She was so shy that I found it impossible to get a shot, flying short distances but always keeping out of range and uttering her note at frequent intervals. She flies quite strongly, rather than in that feeble flickering way usual when started, and invariably lit in the tops of the bushes. Picking up the ♂ that I had shot I found it in superb plumage. Its stomach was crammed with numbers of small silvery minnows about 2 inches in length. Keeping on up to the upper meadows I found the marsh wrens still abundant at Block island, and shot three C. palustris 2 ♂ 1 ♀. Examined all the false nests found on the 26th ult. and found them all empty. In one place when on that date I found four of these nests within a few yards, another had since been added and was built within 2 ft. of one discovered at that time. The males must spend nearly all their time at this work as I found several nests but just commenced. What the object can be I cannot imagine. I have sometimes thought that these extra nests were intended for use in case of emergency as when the true one is destroyed but observations will not bear this out. Near the nest that I robbed on the 26th ult. was a false one but the birds have not laid in it, although within two yards of it the ♂ has since constructed a new one which I am

1875.

July 13 inclined to think it for the 2nd chicken of egg as it is well lined with various soft grasses wool etc. which all the falsn ones that I have examined were simply lined with mud. Unfortunately I cut down this nest before noticing the above facts. The ♂ bird was within a few yards of it but the ♀ I did not see. The ♀ that I shot had evidently been incubating a long time; as usual she had left the nest before I was aware of her presence and I was unable to discover it. Saw several broods of young bobolinks flying about. Reached the house by noon.

July 19 Spent yesterday (Sunday) at the Isles of Shoals (Oceanic House Star is) and this morning took the 10.30 train from Portsmouth for Portland Me. where I arrived at 12.30 and "put up" at the Preble house. In the afternoon called upon Mr. Francis W. Smith, the gentleman who wrote concerning Sterna Portlandica in the Am. Sportsman last winter. I found him a very pleasant fellow, some 25 yrs. of age. He received me very cordially and drove me over to Prouts Point, Scarborough, where we had a good supper and returned by moonlight reaching the city by 11 P.M. He has shot two specimens of S. Portlandica both the same day, at Scarborough and as nearly as he can remember on the 20th Aug. 187[illegible] Has also he thinks seen the bird since. He is very sure of the correctness of his identification.

Green is, Casco Bay, Me.
July 20 - 1875

1875
July 20. Went down to Smith's office after breakfast but he was so busy that he found himself unable to get off with me as he had hoped. Was introduced to Mr. Merrill one of the leading sportsmen of the city & a very pleasant gentleman. Returning to the hotel got my traps and took the 10.30 boat for Peaks island, 3 miles from the city. After a good dinner at Jones hotel tried to get a boatman to take me out to the Green islands but all were afraid or unwilling to attempt it as they said the weather was so rough that it would be impossible to land. Finally however found a man, Littlejohn by name, who agreed to make the attempt and at 4 P.M. we got off in a small open boat, ~~with~~ cat rigged, and with exceedingly shaky looking rigging. Running out through the channel between Peaks & Cushings islands we were soon on the open ocean with the waves "combing" on all sides of us but continuing steadily on we reached the group of Green islands by 4.35. and casting anchor under the lee of the largest one, landed easily enough in a small float which we had brought in tow. This island rose almost perpendicularly out of the sea in cliffs of soft ~~chocolate~~ rock, to the height of some 40 ft, the top almost as level as a table and covered with a growth of luxuriant grasses that nearly overtopped my head as I forced my way through them. Only in one or two spots did the bare rock crop out

1875

July 20

Breeding habits of the terns
Green is Me

through the soil. On this and a neighboring smaller island (Junk of Port) were breeding about 20 pairs of Chroic. atricilla, 6 do of Sterna hirundo, 15 do S. macrura, and perhaps 10 pairs of S. paradisea. In addition to these were a colony of Cotyle riparia (did not see any sandbank), numbers of Tringoides macularius, and very abundantly Passerculus savanna. The terns were very shy, the gulls much less so. I shot 5 of the latter shortly after landing, losing one however which fell in the water. Finding that none of the terns would come within range I concealed myself in the long grass and in an hour ~~latter~~ took 6 S. macrura and 3 S. hirundo. The differences between the notes of S. hirundo & macrura are very slight and although I confirmed sound decisions by shooting the bird, still I am not sure that I could pronounce safely in all cases. S. macrura seems to possess all the notes of S. hirundo but they are all rather harsher & more rancous, especially the scolding one. I could not detect the slightest difference in flight or actions. The S. paradisea were the shyest of all but I am sure of my identification as ~~the~~ cloth ripping note is not to be mistaken. They seemed to keep by themselves and I several times saw what was probably the whole colony, some 15 or 20 birds, flying along together in a close body. None of these birds would "hover" over

and laughing gulls.
July 20 – 1875

1875.
July 20.

one of this kind that fell on land though they did for a few minutes one ~~gull~~ that dropped in the water. In contrast with Muskeget (see July 1874) the terms here seemed to be on perfectly good terms with the C. atricilla. The latter after I had killed several of their number, collected together in a loose body and breasting the strong wind with just sufficient flapping to keep their position, remained in the ~~mid~~ air ~~for~~ during the rest of the afternoon in one place, at times indulging in a wild burst of demoniac laughter. Among the tall grass were many path and little openings trampled down by the birds but no nests were found. My boatman brought me a young gull only a few days old which he said he had found on the rocky beach at the foot of the cliffs. It kept up a ~~continuous~~ querulous cry of hunger or distress and when put down appeared either unable or unwilling to walk. The Artic terns when ~~wounded~~ were very fierce and bit my hand quite forcibly; this I have never noticed with the other species. Both sexes of S. macrura at Muskeget; as evinced by the bare spots, ~~Only the~~ but with C. atricilla only the bird shows them. Both Messrs. Smith and Willey assured me upon my return to the city that petrels (probably O. leachii) bred on the smaller island

1875.

July 20. "Junk of Pork", which I did not visit. The latter gentleman also affirmed that at the time of his last visit at least a thousand terns were breeding on the islands & he could not account for the small number that I saw. Certainly 40 pairs would be a large estimate of the number as I found them. Leaving the island about sundown we had a very rough passage back but reached Peaks island by 8 P.M. and taking the 9 P.M. steamboat for the city I passed the night again at the Preble house. I forgot to mention the fact that a flock of about 100 Larus agentatus rose off the smaller island at my first shot and quickly disappeared. All were in immature plumage and we saw about the same number last night at Scarborough resting on the flats. Probably the bird never breeds the first year.

July 21 In the forenoon visited Willys taxidermist shop. He had 5 Ardetta exilis, & a fine Herodias egretta all shot at Portland this season. Also some for 5 Sorn. Spectabilis taken there last winter. He has taken Par principes the 15 of March last and over two Mel. Lineolnii at different times. The harlequin duck used to occur frequently he says in large flocks but is rare now. Took the 2.35 train on the B. & M. for home and arrived in Boston at 7. Found everything all right as usual.

1875
July 28 Cloudy and sultry. In forenoon took a walk up to the swamps. Started three least bitterns out of low bushes on the edge of pond holes and shot two of them, one an adult ♂ the other a young bird just on wing and evidently one of the brood that I heard calling a week or two ago. This latter bird fell wounded into the water when it quickly paddled ashore and made an inefficient attempt to conceal itself among the tussocks. Upon picking it up, it struck out at me several times in the manner of the Botaurus minor, and with a motion as quick as light: one thrust biting my hand drove the bill quite through the skin drawing blood. Beating shot along the edges of a few of the pools he started three rails all of which I shot. Two were soras, young birds in full plumage, the other a Virginia in that curious mixed plumage peculiar to young birds at this season. All were full grown and flew well. Entering the swamp I found a nest of Chry. tristis in a tall swamp maple, 25 ft. up and quite inaccessible. The ♀ was sitting and kept up a continual twittering which guided me to the spot. This seems to be a regular habit as I noted at the lake in 1873. Nearly all the young birds are out and many have acquired already the fall plumage. I saw a brood of D. Penn. at Wellsley on the 26th in that condition: one of them, a young ♂, was singing already in a practising strain

July 28 And a number of young D. aestiva sing in our linden trees every morning. Adult birds sing very freely still in rainy or cool cloudy weather, and early in the morning, but in the hot noontide all ~~[illegible]~~ are silent (with one or two exceptions as Chry. tristis). The young Ardetta proved on dissection a ♂; the stomachs of both were crammed with Coleoptera entirely, especially a large species of water beetle. Several Chry. tristis which I shot to day had their crops filled exclusively with green pulpy seeds. Members of this genus eat very few insects I think, at any season.

July 30 Clear and comparatively cool with good breeze. Off immediately after breakfast Charles driving me up to Waverley. Entering the woods on the hill I found them filled with men—laborers with their tip carts, shovels, picks, and axes, cutting down, digging up, burning and laying waste generally: upon enquiry I found that the Somerville Asylum had purchased the land 150 acres in all and were to locate ~~the institution on~~ these beautiful woods: thus almost the very last of my favorite haunts has received its ~~death~~ sentence of desecration. Dodging ~~several~~ outlying superintendents and bosses" I passed rapidly through the woods and did not pause until I had got into the swamp behind Chinery's. Here I commenced shooting and visiting a number of favored spots in succession

1875.

July 30 – 1875

July 30. I took a very fair bag of 9 young birds, the best D. virens 2, D. pina 1, M. varia 1, S. pusilla 1, D. discolor 2, S. Baltimore 1, & E. auratus 1. The habit of many different species assembling together in one large flock I find obtains here at this season nearly as much as in Me. I found to day sparrows, warblers, titmice, woodpeckers etc. keeping company indiscriminately often as many as one hundred or more individuals being assembled in an area of a few hundred yards. Very few birds were singing in the woods. I heard one tanager and an indigo bird but the only species that performed at all frequently was S. pusilla. I found a robins nest with 2 eggs, the parent bird sitting thereon. In a swamp heard a note entirely new to me, a long drawn plaintive whistle uttered with a rising inflection. Started a very large woodcock under apple trees but he was so shy that I got only one long shot and missed. Very few if any birds have left us yet, except the swallows: they are getting scarcer daily and I hear and see them frequently flying over at a great height. The sand martins are however still about their breeding places and a few of each of the other species are still to be found in the meadows. Cicadas are commencing to sing regularly and I still hear a few — ~~toad~~ toads in the swamps

Robin Roost

Aug. 4 – 1875

Aug 4 Clear and warm. We are now fairly into the dog days. The weather is not so exceedingly hot, as oppressively sticky. It usually rains once or twice each day – showers that fail to cool the air but leave it sometimes even more ~~sticky~~ unendurable than before, and everything fairly steaming. The cicada is now in full blast and the crickets are tuning up already for the grand Sept. chorus. A few birds have come down from the N. and some of ours have departed. Hummingbirds are getting very abundant and are undoubtedly N. birds as very few bred here this season. I see them frequently in the Swamps, and Maynard has shot a dozen or so in a bed of flocks in this place. The ~~blink~~ of the bobolink, now collected in autumnal flocks, I hear every night and also the faint lisp of an occasional warble ~~Late this Eve.~~, went up to "Block is" ~~late in the P.M.~~ and stayed till dark, watching the flight of birds into the maple swamp where they have for years roosted. For the space of two hours there was a steady stream pouring in from all directions and distances. At 6 P.M. the flight commenced, Cai. canens, Ag. phoeniceus, and Molothrus pecoris coming in flocks of from 50 to 200. At 7 P.M. these three species ceased flying and the robins commenced, and continued till it was nearly too dark to distinguish their forms against the sky. A few swallows (H. horreorum et riparia) also flew in and went to roost among the others. I estimated

1875.

Aug. 4. the number of birds that passed my stationsat least 25,000 and probably as many more came in from the other side. As late as I remained in the vicinity they kept up a continual conversational chatter all over the swamp. This forenoon I took a short turn up through the lower swamp, & shot an adult ♀ Ardetta exilis in rather worn plumage: her stomach contained a number of small bream & mud pickerel. Also shot a young N. Gardenii a y.y. Porzana Carolina, and 6 Eremetes petrificatus. The latter I killed on the flats in Cambridge nook out of a flock of over a hundred among which were a dozen or more Ag. semipalmatus & 1 Gambetta flavipes.

Aug. 9 Clear and hot. The ther. for the past two weeks has been anywhere between 80° and 95°. during the day. Went up into the swamps this afternoon and collected a few birds among them an adult ♂ Ardetta exilis and a do. Cistothorus stellaris. The latter species I found quite abundant around Block is. The males were in full song and good plumage and a dissection of the specimen shot revealed the fact that the duties of incubation had just commenced, as a comparision of the testes with those of a ♂ Chaetura pelagica tristis ~~[illegible]~~ showed a perfectly mature condition in the former and a state of decided decline in the latter bird. This gentle satisfactorily saw the first Bluebird. solitarius

Late breeding of C. stellaris — Evening flight of Bob. oryzivorus

Aug. 9 accounts for the fact that the eggs are so rarely taken — the bird being evidently an even later breeder than the Chrysomitris.

Aug. 10 Clear and hot. Went up to the swamps again this P.M. with young Davidson. Waited near Block is. for the evening flight of birds and saw them come against in extraordinary numbers. The marsh wrens (C. stellaris) were singing steadily on all sides and I hunted a long time in vain for a nest among grass as tall as myself. The bobolinks come in by thousands to roost in the fresh water meadows, after spending the day on the salt marshes. Wanting some specimens we concealed ourselves in their line of flight and killed 8 or 10, I making two double shots. They fly much earlier in the afternoon than the other birds which roost in the maple swamp adjacent. I think the rails have nearly if not all left as we searched very closely for them without flushing a single bird.

Aug. 13 For the last three or four days I have heard the sharp chirp of Siurus noveboracensis in our garden and to day I started one up from under the sink spout. They pass most of their time however in a piece of tall corn where they search for food in the earth kept moist by its luxuriant shade, and judging by their calls there must be a number of them in the place. Hummingbirds

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875.

Aug. 18. continue very numerous, and these with the water thrushes are I think the only Incessorial species which have come down from the N. as yet. Birds are singing a little more I think than they were several week back. In the early morning and again at sunset I hear the Baltimore, and three species of Vireo, — flavifrons, gilvus et olivaceus; an occasional robin also and sometimes a few notes from Contopus virens.

Aug. 17 Cloudy with wind S.E. Took the 9.30 boat for Long is. Boston harbor and arriving at about 10 A.M. walked over to the marsh and began operations. Immense numbers of small birds were flying and I saw one N. Hudsonicus, three or four large plover, a few Actitumus Bartramius, and two large flocks of Gambetta flavipes. Shot during the day twenty birds in some 28 shots picking my bird each time and commencing the morning with two double shots in succession. Got four specimens for mounting, three Aegialitis semipalmatus and a very fine adult Tringa Bonapartii. Nearly all the peeps that I saw or shot were E. pusillus. The difference in the notes of the two species is very tangible: that of T. minutilla is a mellow tweet, tweet; while the semipalmatus species utters a harsh pep, pep; kreep, kreep, almost like the peculiar note of T. maculata. The queerest chatter heard from a flock while feeding is I think produced by this

Aug. 17 little bird but I am not yet certain. The zip, zip of T. Bonapartii is peculiar and unmistakable. Saw a single Strepsilas interpres its ~~call~~ is a single short rattle of four or five notes run together. Took dinner at the Sea View house and returned on the 6.45 boat. Swallows of all five species (also the chimney swifts) literally swarmed on the island.

Aug. 24 Clear and cool with N. wind. The "dog days" came to an end yesterday when we had the first really cool day since this month came in. This morning I took a turn up to the swamps and returned at noon with a few birds among them a Gambetta flaipes which I shot in the pond hole near Mc. Carthy's. In the maple swamp shot a water thrush and a beautiful little jumping mouse. Dendroica aestiva left the swamps 4 or 5 days ago but I saw one in our linden trees this morning (Aug. 25). E. minimus also left about the same time though I secured a single straggler this morning in full fall plumage. These two species are the only ones that I am sure are gone as yet. Contopus virens is abundant and they sing nearly as much now as in June. All the birds in fact sing more now than they did a month ago. The orioles especially are quite noisy and the young males perform nearly as well as the adult birds. Have seen no hummers for a week past. Actitis Bartramia I hear over our place nearly every morning. Have seen no Gambetta ejiti's for a long time and I do not think there is a sail left in

1875

Aug. 24 the swamps. The bulk of the bobolinks are gone but there are still a good many small flocks about. Aug. 21 & 22 I saw several small companies of night hawks passing S. at sunset. All the swallows are still with us in greater or less abundance. Cerryle alcyon is getting abundant on fresh pond. Nearly all the young Chip. trusts are now out of the nests. The chorus of crickets is now at its full height and the cicadas are ~~beginning~~ on the decline. To day I heard the first note of that unknown creature that fills the woods with its discordant chirpings in Sept. Shot 3 peeps (one of them a Y. Y. semipalmata) and a kingfisher on 4 spots flying. Maynard received a young Corvus carnivorus from Springfield Mass a few days since, the first for the State. [I afterwards purchased this specimen]

Aug. 26 Clear and cool, Took the 2.30 P.M. boat for Long Is. and arriving there secured a room at the hotel and immediately set out for the shooting ground. Walking near the edge of a little fresh water pond hole I first started a small flock of peeps and among them two larger birds at which I fired a quick shot at long range and dropping one found that I had secured a very fine Tringites subbrufus, a young bird in the fall plumage. Its companion lit a short distance off in the pasture but although I chased it about for some time I found it

Long island
Tringites rufescens Peculiar habits of

Aug. 26 so exceedingly shy that I was unable to get another shot. I stood in a very erect posture and never moved until I began to approach when it would rise and flying a hundred yards or so light again. Its flight was very swift and eccentric: once or twice it performed the most astonishing evolutions in the air rising to the height of about 100 feet and then darting zig zag towards the earth with almost incalculable rapidity. When flying past the fawn color of the under parts was very apparent. it utered continually while on wing a single short hoarse note very like that of T. maculata. ~~Proceeding~~ Ascending the hill my surprise was great at finding large flocks of peeps (E. pusillus alone ~~observed~~) feeding in the pasture land even on its summit, and among large herds of sheep, cows etc. Setting out some plover decoys I soon got as many shots as I wished at single peeps which were continually flying about and which came down readily to the stools, and firing some 25 shots I secured about 18 birds, making one double and missing several others. Later in the afternoon as the tide reached its highest flood the birds came ~~into~~ over the pasture in immense numbers lighting everywhere; even that preeminently littoral species Aegialites semipalmatus showing as great a liking for grasshopper diet as the peeps; at last I suppose grasshoppers were the attraction for I could find nothing else save a few little white moths, and the stomach of the Tringites was certainly

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875

Aug. 26. crammed with the hoppers. At least 100 birds were at one time feeding together presenting a curious and interesting appearance as they ran nimbly about, and when the flock was headed toward me ~~too~~ the ~~bird~~ bright green turf seemed fairly alive with animated snow flakes! Then in the rear kept constantly flying ahead and dropping in front of their companions so that the flock made rapid progress down the hillside and reaching the foot all would rise together and after a few wheels fly back to the summit and pitch down again. During the afternoon I did not see a single large bird of any description.

Aug. 27 After a sleepless night occasioned by a grand hop in the dance hall under my room where a band of 10 pieces played till 3 A.M. I rose at 5.30 and dressing hurridly went out on the island again but finding no birds of any account flying I returned and took the 8 A.M. boat up to the city. While walking along the edge of the flats I heard a single loud harsh resonant cry almost like the honk of a goose and looking up saw a flock of about a dozen terns of large size flying over high up. What they were I cannot imagine as the note was an entirely new one to me.

1875.

Aug. 28 Clear cool and a lovely day. Off after breakfast ~~yet~~ taking the car up to Watertown. Fired eight shots with the Stephens pistol but had very hard luck, seeming only two birds a y. y. Vireo flavifrons (which I mounted) & a do. Icterus Baltimore ♂. Vireo flavifrons was singing everywhere, most beautifully too and with more sweetness and expression, it seemed to me, than in June. This bird with Icterus Baltimore and Contopus virens now forms the entire feathered choir. Saw several magnificent adult ♂ orioles, one of them in particular, I thought the brightest I had ever noticed. Saw also one flock of Picus pubescens and Sitta Carolinensis and also a Dendroica which I took to be D. striata but am not positive about it. Birds of all kinds are now principally found in flocks, especially the sparrows. This evening ~~while~~ taking a drive with Will Stone saw a pair of Anas obscura flying low down over Birds Pond.

Aug. 30 Rose at 5 A. M. and went up into the swamps as far as the Pine swamp. Shot three Vireo flav. & 1 y. y. V. Noveboracensis but all were mouthing so badly that I was obliged to throw them away. Heard a Gambetta mel. flying over the pond and saw a company of 7 or 8 Hay. Sandpiper all in their brown plumage. On the way home shot 3 Hay. solitarius from a little company of 5 that were feeding in the pond hole near Mr. Carty's; all were birds of the year in rather thin flesh.

1875.

Aug. 31 Started immediately after breakfast and took a tramp with W. Storer into the swamps. I shot two Seth. minicilla, a Mniotilta varia a Vireo flav. (adult fine pl.) a Parula Am. & a Nycticorax Gardenii. The latter bird was an adult moulting, nearly all the wing feathers being new: it had only one plume and the steel blue of the back and crown was replaced by a dark, lustreless plumbeous. The Parula was a young bird moulting preparatory to throwing out the full fall plumage. The heron came flying silently up, as we were sitting together in the cool shade of the maple swamp, and lighted within about 40 yds. when I shot him with a heavy charge of No. 10. Dolychonyx oryzivorus is still with us in small numbers.

Sept. 2 Clear and warm. Wind E. With W. Storer took the 9.30 boat for Long is. and shot there all day returning at 6 P.M. Found peeps very numerous on the hills and setting out our decoys we killed about 75 birds between us of which 35 fell to my share. Nearly all of these were killed singly. Had a very fine Tringites rufescens given me by a man who picked it up dead. Saw a Numenius Hudsonicus, and one large plover. Among the peeps we killed ~~two~~ T. minutilla, all the rest were E. pusilla. Saw two Mac. grisens which were killed from a flock of a dozen that lit on the flats, both were immature birds. Saw also a single Totanus flavipes flying about.

Dend. striata, Emp. flaviventris

1875.

Sept. 6 Clear and pleasant. Off for the swamps with Stone immediately after breakfast. Had very poor luck as a bright S.W. wind made so much noise among the leaves that it was impossible to hear anything. On the flats in Fresh pond shot two Ag. Dum. and E. pusillus & a G. minutilla. On the woods took an adult ♂ Sitt. cuticilla, a D. striata and an adlt. ♂ Cyanospiza cyanea changing to fall pl. Saw also on the pond a single Calidris arenaria. Yesterday (Sunday) P.M. while driving down by the pond saw two Bursgnidula discors sitting on the mud in "Barker's nook" preening their feathers and tying my horse I walked down to nearly within gun shot of them. Heard to day that a flock of 'ing appeared on the pond early in the (Sunday) morning and four of them were shot; these two were probably the survivors.

Sept 7 Clear cool and a lovely September day. Rose at 5 A.M. and started for the swamps. On the mud flats in the Glacialis pond were a pair of Gambetta flavipes and whistling them over to me I shot one and missed a long shot at the other. A few minutes later I heard the note of a G. melanolenca in the distance and whistling diligently I soon called him down to me and killed him. Also shot a Totanus solitarius flying. In the willows near the brook I saw an Empidonax and shooting it found I had killed E. flaviventris the first time I ever saw it in Autumn; in a

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

1875.

Sept 7 — 1875

Sept. 7. few minutes I killed another also in an isolated willow tree. Went struck through the maple swamp but saw nothing worthy of note with the exception perhaps of a Mr. rufus that was uttering his smacking note among the bushes. The swamps are very lovely now, full of wildflowers and the lights & shadows dancing over the ferns in the little green glades. Coming home a piece of good fortune awaited me. In a large willow tree at the foot of the lane I heard a vireo scold: stopping and looking up I ~~soon~~ spied a Vireo olivaceus, and soon saw another, his mate perhaps, popped out in sight. While watching them I saw an adjoining twig shake and looking closely spied still a third vireo - a smaller one — so small indeed that I at once suspected its identity and shot it ~~quickly~~ ~~once~~. Picking it up I found to my delight that it was a bird new to our state fauna - my long sought little friend, Vireo Philadelphicus. On dissection it proved a ♀ and a bird of this year. Arrived at the house by 8 A.M. and with Stone spent the forenoon skinning & mounting birds. D. striata was abundant anywhere this morning. C. Hart Merriam arrived this noon from Woods Hole and will stay one to-morrow with me. Woodcock are very ~~scarce~~ everywhere. Ruffed grouse are as usual in Sept not to be found. J. C. Minot started only one in an all days tramp last week. Only a few Dolichonyx Bobolinks remain.

MASS (Middlesex Co.)
1875.

Continuance of summer birds. Evening flight of the Blackbirds. Ectopistes migratorius

Sept. 9 Clear and hot: wind S.W. Rose at 5.30 and started for the swamps. Finding no large birds on the ponds I turned my attention to collecting but found the woods almost destitute of birds. Shot a single Emp. flaviventris, a very fine autumnal specimen of T. fuscescens, and a Vireo noveboracensis. Saw Hirundo horreorum et riparia and Chaetura pelagica, Hydrochelidon lunifera, S. noveboracensis et aurocapillus, Vol. virginianus, etc. After breakfast drove up as far as the willows with Stone but saw nothing worthy of note. In P.M. with S. went up to Block is. to await the evening flight of blackbirds. Large numbers of Molothrus pecoris flew first and we shot 40 B. in transitional plumage. Just at dusk all the Quis. ceniis came in one immense flock, a perfect cloud of birds composed of thousands of individuals; as they approached the roosting place the leaders swooped down nearly to the ground, all behind imitating the movement and producing a sound like the wind roaring through the pines in winter. I shot a wild pigeon that was sitting on a dead tree in the marsh. Heard a ♂ Cis. stellaris singing. Saw two Chordeiles popetue and have seen others migrating at frequent intervals since Aug. 21st. Icterus Baltimore left about Sept. 5. Hel. ruficapilla were all gone by Sept. 1st and probably a little earlier: the last specimen I saw lingered about our linden trees till the last days of August. S. noveboracensis is still very abundant and some of the Vireos are visiting as yet. Did not recognize any Agelaius phoe. this evening

1875. Turdus Swainsonii, Oporornis agilis
Contopus virens. Fall singing of the
Vireos. Anthus Ludovicianus (saw one)

Sept. 11 Clear and very cold this, falling to 40°. Off at 5.30 A.M. meeting Will Stone in the swamps, he having missed me at the house. As large birds were wanting we went in immediately for specimens but had very poor luck. The only bird that I got worth skinning was an adult ♂ G. trichas in most beautiful fall plumage. Shot and spoilt a Turdus Swainsonii the first. Saw a little company of Parula Am. and shooting one found in almost destitute of any save pin feathers. Saw also Oporornis agilis! I have seen several birds during the week that I referred with some doubts to this species but this time there was no mistake; as I got within 6 ft of the bird; it was uttering its peculiar and indescribable note (a single hard, sharp almost vibrating sound that has withal a sort of metallic ring to it) and another in the same thicket kept answering it. Vireo flavifrons and V. novaboracensis were both in full song in the pine swamp and the notes of both but of the latter especially seemed to me to possess a compass and sweet completeness lacking in the spring! Possibly the fine, pure air at this season may assist the effect or lend vigor to the performer. The sparrows are now moulting and in very poor plumage. L. strigata is not very abundant yet. Saw two Contopus virens! It is remarkable that this species which arrives before C. minimus should be the last to leave. The swamps are very dry and we shall probably have no snipe this fall.

Oporornis agilis. D.L. Originorus.

1875.

Sept. 13 Cloudy and rained most of the A.M. Cleared up at sunset. Started off with Stone after dinner and went up to the swamp. At the foot of the lane found the same identical pair of Op. agilis seen on the 11th. Both times these birds acted very peculiarly. As I entered the bushes both flew up from the ground and actually seemed almost inclined to resent my intrusion, uttering their peculiar note almost incessantly and walking up the branch on which they lit & jerking their tails up at frequent intervals. This latter habit I have never observed before; indeed their actions were altogether different from any that I ever noticed in the species before. Both these birds were very tame & I settled their identity beyond any question by shooting both of them. One was very fat, the other quite lean. Saw here a Seiurus Nov. also. Went through the maple swamp without getting anything and was just crossing the hillside on the Glacialis edge when a woodcock rose out of the path without making a particle of noise in his flight. I fired a hasty & well nigh impossible shot & missed. Following on "Shot" found and pointed him, and as he rose Stone shot and killed him. Striking across to the great meadows we waited for the evening flight of blackbirds. Stone got a shot into a flock of Molothrus and killed 4. I shot into a large flock of grackles at long range and got two both young ♂'s changing. An omen that the red wings have all left. Saw a few red birds and one Chordeiles popetue also 6 or 8 Icterus bicolor

1875.

Sept. 18 Clear and cold with high N.W. wind. Took the 11.10 train to Concord and meeting Jim. on the cars we were immediately set out in his team which awaited us at the station. First we took a turn on the "Great meadows" Jim having heard that some birds had come in, but in a hasty beat we flushed only one which Shot found and pointed handsomely and which fell to my 2nd barrel. Getting into the wagon again we drove for the North ground and beat the Parker lot etc. without moving anything except a covey of 5 grouse which Jim started wild. Melvin's run also drew blank but on the birch hillside above we put up a small woodcock which I killed, and still further on a very large one which also fell to my first barrel. This latter bird lay among thick alders in a wet run: both were mouthing badly and only the first whistled as he rose. I shot also a ♀ y-y. Cy. cyanea in full pl. and saw five or six Tyrannus Carolinensis, and a few single Ampelis cedrorum. I also saw a Trochilus colubris about the 15th but I cannot remember the precise date. Vireo flavifrons has I think left at least I have not seen any for several days.

Nantucket island Mass.

Coturniculus passerinus

Sept. 20 Left Boston on the 8 N.M. train with Messrs. Stone and Bailey and arrived at the city at 2.30 P.M. Engaged board at Reuben P. Folgers @ 10.50 per. week and getting out our guns we immediately set out for "the commons". Found Cot. passerinus in goodly numbers where C. J. N. & myself shot them in '74 and I killed 3 fine specimens, 2 in fall plumage and the other a moulting in process of change. We found them in little companies of 5 or 6 among the rankest growths of grass and were obliged to shoot them on wing as they lay very close and could not be seen on the ground. They were perfectly silent and fly at this season very like P. Savanna. I also shot a Ypsanurus Carolinensis in fall plumage without the red patch on the crown.

Sept 21 Clear and lovely day with a fresh S.W. wind. Started off together immediately after breakfast and ~~taking~~ hiring a row boat of Mr. Burdett we started for Coton point with a native Sid. Fisher by name who volunteered his services. On the end of the point I shot a Strep. interpres (♀ ad.) that was feeding among some kelp wracks along the drift at high water mark. I noticed nothing peculiar in his motions excepting perhaps that as I approach he skulked off among

Nantucket.
1875
Sept. 21.

Habits of the Terns

the grass with bowed head; this bird bears the euphonious name of "Haddock" here probably so called from its hoarse rattling note. Keeping on in the boat & having B. to follow by land we sail about a mile or so further up the bay when we were rejoined by B. who much to our alarm came staggering up in a very faint weak condition. After attending to his wants as well as circumstances would permit we followed his tracks back & recovered his gun which he had dropped in the sand a mile or more behind. He probably had a partial attack of sun stroke. Here I shot a Tringa canutus in fall plumage. Seeing a number of terns sitting on a sand bar I took the boat and sailed out to them. As I approached they presented a very pretty sight 40 or 50 of them sitting close together, many lying down and a few floating on the water washing themselves. The position of those standing up was nearly as follows

I approached very easily within gunshot and in a few minutes shot down five or six all S. hirundo, but most of them ♀♀. Afterwards sailed up to another larger flock and shot six or seven more. Here I heard the

Local names of the shore birds

Sept. 21. unmistakable note of S. paradisea but was unable to shoot the bird. The young S. hirundo bore the minimum proportion to the adults of perhaps 1 to 3. The note is much the same but more shrill and querulous. Sometimes I saw one of the young birds following the adult and apparently begging for food. Calidris arenaria Ag. semipalmatus & E. pusillus were all abundant and one or two S. minutilla were shot. Had a hard pull back against wind and tide, stopping only once when I went ashore and made a most laborious stalk up to a Ch. virginicus which I find at at long range I missed! The young bird of this species is known the "pale belly"! the sandling is called "pesque" probably from its note. Before supper skinned the birds shot yesterday.

Sept 22 Clear and very cold. Wind N.W. & blowing half a gale. Hired a horse & wagon & with Fisher as guide set out immediately after breakfast. Drove over to Smith's Beach (9 miles) seeing on the way 2 ducks, and a pair of Numenius Hudsonicus. The latter rose out of the grass not over 20 yds. from the wagon and upon Fisher's imitating their rolling whistle of 5 or 6 notes, came back and gave me a long double shot

Nantucket. 1875

M. himantopus, Hal. Virginia
Sterna paradisea Nun. Hudson

Sept. 22. which I missed with both barrels. Their flight is rather slow & very like that of Bartram's Sandpiper. At Smith's Point found terns in multitudes, saw at least 500 in one flock. and shot some 10 or 12 ad. S. hirundo excepting two an adult & young of S. paradisea. Saw numbers of the latter species but they were very shy; the young utters a peculiar twittering note (?) and also the mellow mew of the adult. Saw some 6 or 8 Agl. melodus and shot 2 both birds of the year. Saw also a single Larus atricilla & numbers of adult & young L. agentatus. A flock of Mel. velutina also passed high over my head. Anthus ludovicianus was also present in moderate numbers. Came back by a circuitous route & passed a most delightful afternoon. Along the edges of the fresh water ponds I shot one each of T. Bonapartii and Micro. himantopus: the former was alone, the latter feeding in a flock of E. pusillus; its motions were very like those of the yellow legs. Saw Gam. flavipes, Circus Hud. numbers, Hly. columbarius, Ster. magna numbers, etc. While driving across one of the "commons" a small bird started in front of the horse, from among the scanty grass & sweet fern & lighted a little way

Nantucket.
1875

Actitarus Bartramius
Ampelis cedrorum

Sept. 22 o'. Jumping out I started & shot it and my surprise was great upon picking up a fine full specimen of Hal. peregrina. On the way back I happened to spy an Actitarus Bartramius standing perfectly motionless within 15 yds of the wagon. Stopping the horse I found it was really too near to shoot so waited a few minutes in hopes that it would fly but it only skulked off slightly through the grass and over squatted down for an instant; evidently it imagined itself unseen & was afraid to draw our attention by taking wing. Finally shot it without flushing but found it so fat as to be utterly impracticable as a specimen. In the skirts of the town saw a flock of about 30 Ampelis cedrorum feeding on the berries of a wild cherry tree. Reached the house by 5 P.M. C. Jamaicensis was abundant everywhere on the commons & rose at frequent intervals almost under the horse's feet. The gunners informed us that we are too late for the plover shooting & I think it must be so as we did not see a single bird to day. Porzanas Carolina & Por. Jamaicensis are both abundant. Saw several Pandion Carolinensis

P. podiceps, Albino robin

Nantucket.
1875.

Sept. 23 Clear and rather warm. Spent all the forenoon skinning the birds shot yesterday & day before, Stone helping me on them. At ~~three~~ 3 P.M. started off in the wagon with S. & B. Fisher again acting as guide. Drove in an Easterly direction towards and to within 2 miles of Siasconset. Saw no birds worthy of mention excepting a grebe (P. podiceps) in Gibbs pond and a very fine snow white albino robin. The former bird I stalked, and shot both barrels at, unaccountably missing him! he was so completely surprised that instead of diving he flapped off along the surface making for the middle of the pond and when some way out he stopped and sat still uttering a low & quite mellow hook, almost like the call of a goose but not nearly so loud or strong. Shot usual P. Sayanna & five C. passerinus, all of which I gave to B. Saw numbers of Colaptes auratus a few C. ruficrus & large numbers of M. melodia. The country is very like that to the S. & W. of the town, vast rolling commons. There are said to be a few wild rabbits on the island L. sylvaticus probably. Crows are very abundant everywhere. Black ducks remain in numbers through the winter living entirely on the sea.

Nantucket is. Mass.
Sept. 24 — 1875

Sept. 24 Clear and a lovely day. Fresh wind from the S. W. Bailey left for home this morning. Off after breakfast with Stone taking Burdetts cat rigged boat "the Rocket" with Fisher to sail. Kept up the harbor landing first at Potonoy where we saw a single "peb Billy". Then ~~kept~~ drove down to the head of the bay before a brisk breeze, and landed at the marsh where with C. G. H. I spent a day in 1874. Here I shot a S. Helvetica, called him "chuckle head", which Fisher whistled up very easily. Walking across the island to the sea beach we found the sandy shore literally lined with sandlings a long unbroken line of them extending in both directions as far as the eye could reach. They came very readily to my pipe whistle and were easily approached while sitting and in a short time we killed about two dozens. Among some stunted red cedars back from the beach I saw two im. Seth. reticilla and on a salt marsh a few Sturnella magna. Walking back to the boat we took lunch then hoisting sail commenced beating back for home against wind and tide. When opposite Fisher's gunning house his quick eye discovered a little company of 5 "chuckle heads" feeding on the beach and landing S. & I stalked to within long range

Nantucket. 1875. Sept. 24.

Sterna Caspia (?) Habits of the species (S. Hirundo)

of them and I shot down two one of which afterwards escaped. The remaining three we followed for a long time in vain; they were shy as hawks but I finally killed another at long range. Their note is the long drawn whistle of three intonations so well known to the gunners. Their ~~ordinary~~ usual position is that ordinary one so characteristic of all the species but they were rather differently and much faster than the smaller species. While here a little company of large terns came along and fished for some time within a hundred yards of me; they were either S. Caspia or S. Regia I am inclined to think the former. They sit special times and preen on deep water. Their flight and plunging was precisely similar to that of the smaller species. The only note that I heard was a rancous hank somewhat like the angry one of Sterna paradisea but much louder, hoarser, & stronger. Saw also numbers of Larus agilis on L. Delawarensis and S. hirundo. Of the latter I shot 4 nice specimens two of which were well got.

Had a good shot at a black duck in the morning as he sprang out of a pond hole but missed both barrels, Reached the house at 8 P.M.

200
Nantucket.
1875.

Hydro. plumbea, Lum. discors.
Air Sponsa.

Sept. 25 Clear and a lovely day. Wind S. and pretty strong. Off after breakfast in the wagon with Stone & Fisher. Saw nothing of interest until we reached Long pond when as we were driving across the bridge two wood duck jumped from among the rushes and I knocked over one of them from the wagon, getting a chance with one barrel only. The survivor was joined by a teal (Lum. discors) and both lighted in a little pond hole surrounded by high grass when I stalked them with ease and killed both at a shot as they sat on the water. Keeping on we had nearly reached Smith's point when a curlew (N. Hudsonicus) rose from among some moss & beach grass on a sand flat and flying only a few yards lit and squatted within 20 yds. of us when I killed him dead with a light charge of No. 8 At Smith's point we found multitudes of terns and I killed 4 Skimmers, one of them a young bird barely able to fly. The carrying of fish about in the bill seems to be a regular habit as I saw both young & adult so engaged. Saw a few S. paradisea but failed in getting any. Also saw distinctly a H. plumbea flying in a flock of the common tern. A few A. melodus were again observed and sandling were very numerous,

Nantucket
1875.
(Sept. 25)

Eating lunch here we drove to Hummock pond where I fired into a bunch of sandling and killed 9 with a single barrel. At the report a flock of about 50 Ch. Virginicus rose from the shore beyond where they had been sitting unobserved on the sand and turning at Fisher's whistle came up to within about 60 yds. when S. and I let them barrels into them and killed five: four were birds of the year and one a fine adult: all were exceedingly fat. They came up in perfect line and but for their dark color I should have taken them for sing necks so small did they look on wing. They were afterwards joined by a still larger flock, and all together disappeared over the sand hills. Afterwards we saw a flock of about 20 sitting on a sand spit when I tried to stalk them but found them too shy. They fly very swiftly and in a compact body, bearing indeed a considerable semblance to a flock of wild pigeons. We found their tracks everywhere on the sandy beaches of the pond. Their notes I heard only once and that faintly: it is different from that of S. Helvetica, a single low mellow whistle. Reached the house by 5 P.M.

1875.
Monday
Sept. 27

Falco sparverius, Strepsilas interpres

Clear with very high wind from the S.W. Off after breakfast in the wagon driving up to Smith's Point. On the way saw three small hawks playing about together in the air like so many swallows, circling about, diving down and chasing one another as if in sport. One of them came so near that I distinctly identified the peculiar markings of Falco sparverius: the other two may have been of the same species but they looked more like F. columbarius. At the point shot three Sterna hirundo and a Strepsilas interpres. The latter bird was feeding in a large flock of sandlings. Started a black head and a golden plover off the mud flats both of which were too shy to allow us to get within shot. The view off Smith's point was grand in the extreme. As far as the eye could reach the white combing crests of huge surges were breaking, ~~and~~ the position of the numerous sand bars being marked by a more than usual commotion of the waters. On Smith's island were literally thousands of terns sitting along the water's edge and every now and then the whole vast throng would rise and ~~after~~ a few wheels settle again

Ph. agilis, Porzana Carolina
Numinus Hud. Beautiful sunset
at Hummock pond

Striking across the common a small, obscurely colored bird started among the scanty beach grass and at a few rods off starting after it I trod it up and shot in on wing and upon picking it up found it to be an Ipsoreus's agilis, an immature bird in fall plumage. A little further on a rail started almost under the horse's feet and shooting it found the species to be P. Carolina, also a y.y. fall fl. Still further on in a sandy patch with scanty sparse coly grass, I saw within 80 yds. a Numinus Hudsonicus standing perfectly still and pulling up the horse, I shot him. Like the one killed Sat. he was too fat to be available as a specimen. Killed him two Col. pusillus, neither in very good plumage, a Calidris arenaria (flying) in Gunah, with decided traces of a black breast patch and a Sturnella magna, the latter a very long shot made from the wagon while in motion. Reaching Hummock pond we found nothing there excepting 16 black ducks which started from a little fresh water pond hole not over 10 yds square. Then fishing a couple of stands and we lay in them till dark without getting a shot. Was well paid however by witnessing a most superb sunset enhanced by sand

enhancing a few rows of the pond and out over the foam flecked ocean with great pictuesque sand hills bounding it. Were blinks hard as about as bad afloat. Sam & Co. turn'd return to find in the port as we had expected, number of Hudsonicus, but no Cargo. Pleasant evening at Smith's point

Nantucket, 1875

Coatue point

Squatarolla Helvetica

Sept. 28 Clear and a fine day. Spent the forenoon skinning birds. After dinner packed our trunks and after buying a stock of provisions set sail in Capt. Burdett's boat, the Rocket, for Coatue point. Arrived opposite Sid. Fishes house at about dark and after some little trouble in getting our heavy luggage ashore we unlocked the shanty and were soon established in the most comfortable gunning house on the point. Just as we landed the long drawn whistle of a beetle head came up from the shore to the S.W. and answering his call the bird or birds flew by us several times in the darkness. Several times we caught a low, wird, guttural almost choking note immediately succeeding the whistle: the effect of the whole was very interesting. On our way up the bay we saw several large flocks of golden plover. flying over the water.

Sept 29 Clear with very high E. wind. Rose at 6 and dressing quickly cooked our breakfast. While this was going on we fired several shots almost out of the house door. First Sidney H. saw three beetle heads sitting on the beach nearly in front of the house and stalking them he got

Nantucket
1875.
(Sept. 29)

Notes of the turnstone
" " Golden plover Tringa maculata
Rend. coronata Gen. melanoleuca

them all in two shots. Left a small flock of white winged coots crossed the point, within long range of the house and I fired at them without effect. After breakfast I took a short tramp along the beach. Saw a flock of nine Strep. interpres flying along just on the edge of the surf and fired at them without avail. Their flight is extremely swift & their motions on wing very graceful. Their note is a rolling whistle not unlike that of N. Hudsonicus but rather higher. Saw also three Gambetta mel. and a Tringa maculata but was unable to get a shot at them. In the forenoon made up two of the beach heads & S. skinned the other. In the afternoon dug a stand on the nearest point and lay there till dark. I killed a few sandling and S. an immature Sarus antigonus and a golden plover. The latter I whistled down from a great height. It uttered a single short whistle. Saw Rend. coronata and Ar. p. cedrorum both among the stunted cedars on the sand knolls. Have not seen a single tern in the harbor either yesterday or to day. Domestic cats run wild are very abundant on the point.

Nantucket
1875

D. palmarum, D. coronata
Ampelis ced. and Falco columbarius

Sept. 30 Rose this morning feeling quite sick and feverish and lay in my bunk nearly all the forenoon. Sidney went out several times with Stone's gun and killed three butt heads. S. shot a D. palmarum from the door of the house and I also heard the chirp of D. coronata. In P. M. feeling much worse sent Sid up to town whence he returned about sunset with in Capt. Burdett's sail boat and getting our things on board we were back in our old quarters at Mr. Folgers by 7 P. M.

TAXIDERMY. Messrs. Stone & Brewster, two gentlemen from Boston, are guests at the house of Reuben P. Folger Esq. They are collecting and mounting specimens of our island birds. They have, we understand, obtained a very fine collection.

The Island Review.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1875.

Oct. 1 Woke this m[illegible] better and spent the day [illegible] up our bird's etc.

Oct. 2 Started for home this morning. Came across the Sound in the Steamer Island Home leaving Nantucket at 8 and arriving at Wood's hole at 11.30. The wind was blowing a perfect gale and the waves running very high but in spite of this I saw numbers of terns all the way across, also several large flocks of coots, one of which flying over and at Wood's hole I distinctly saw was composed entirely of adult & Pel. perspicillata. Here I also saw a flock of about 40 Am. cedrorum and while watching them an im. Falco columbarius glided softly up and picked one of them off a branch before the flock took the alarm

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1875.

Oct. 7 Rained in torrents all last night & to day clearing up in P.M. Left the house at 3.30 and struck up into the swamps. Started a snipe and 4 rail bagging them all in 5 shots. All the rails were P. Carolina and "Shot" pointed all but one in good style. Saw 4 other snipe flying over high. Last week J. Thos Nesbitt bagged 7 snipe around pond holes in the fields. The first flight cock were killed at Concord on the 24 ult when J. C. Melvin started ten birds.

Snipe 1 — Rails 4. Met Robert & Chas Nesbitt this P.M. The former showed me a Gallus Virginianus which he had shot; they usually come later & leave earlier & I am inclined to consider this a bird that was bred on the ground & has remained behind. Rail were seen in large numbers last week but all so far as I can learn were P. Carolina. W. A. Purdie took a walk Sunday the 3rd and noted R. coronata abdnt, Regulus calendula numerous (one shot by P. Warren Sept. 29th) & Turdus Aliciae aurea. I saw a flock of Sol. ferrugin in our yard on the 4th and saw another large flock in the swamps this evening. The wood beds are literally alive with sparrows of every description. A fine Y. Y. Butteo Penn. was brought to me Sunday. It was shot on the Brooks pl. in Belmont on the 2nd. Both stomach & crop were stuffed with Grasshoppers — nothing else

C. stellaris, B. Cassinii, Anthus Ludovic.
Trip to Concord meadows
Oct 9 — 1875

Oct. 9 Clear still and a most lovely autumn day. Rose early and meeting John Nesbitt by appointment took the 8.10 train on the Fitchburg road for W. Bedford where we got off and struck at once for the Great meadows. Found the water altogether too high and almost despaired of seeing any birds but finally after wading across the meadow started four snipe along the N. edge and N. bagged one of them. I fired only two shots, both long ones but killed two rails (P. Car) both of which shot pointed. From here struck on to Dam meadow where we started three birds and killed them all. Two of these last rose wild from the edge of a pond of rain water in a ploughed field, and with them got up a pair of Tringa maculata which got off unshot at. Both the snipe dropped in tall grass and gave us good shots and one of them shot pointed very handsomely. These meadows were in prime condition and we should have found more birds. On the Great meadows saw large numbers of Anthus Ludovic. and an osprey also a marsh wren which I took to be C. stellaris. Taking the 1 P.M. train home we got off at Spy pond and walked down across the meadows. Did not start any birds but I shot a fine fall specimen of C. stellaris and a Brachystes Cassinii: the latter was flushed by N. and came flying over me. Scol. ferruginens abundant everywhere. W.B. Snipe 2, rail 2. J.N. snipe 2

1875.

Oct. 11 Cloudy with E. wind. Rose at 5 A.M. and meeting Stone at the house, by appointment went up to the swamps. In the little pond hole in front of the engine house Shot found & pointed two rails (P. Carolina) both of which I shot. Then beat all the upper meadows but without moving anything worth a charge of ammunition

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" 13 Clear and the most perfect day of the season. Thm. at sunrise 28°: quite warm at noon. With Stone took the 8.11 train on the Lowell road and getting off at W. Bedford spent the day in the woods between there and Concord. Our special object was woodcock but although we beat all the best of the Eastern ground we saw not a feather of game excepting an old cock grouse which we flushed late in the P.M. On Dam meadow found a small flock of larks (S. magna) and chasing them about for some time we succeeded in killing one a fine fall female. Getting into "Walls" about the middle of the afternoon we spent a pleasant hour sitting on the edge of the spring, that most delightful little spot, charming at whatever season you may visit it. While here we heard a flock of jays at a distance and Stone imitated

calling blue jays. Hoar's pond at sunset — wood ducks etc.

(Oct. 13) to call them, by frequent repetition of a low complaining noise. For a few moments all was still & then one after another they appeared stealing up through the trees, silent and intensely curious evidently; at last they came directly over our heads and I killed two of them. Purposely timing our progress we arrived at Sam Hoar's trout pond just before sunset and as I had anticipated that little sheet of water was looking its very loveliest, the sun glancing in through the pines on the West side throwing portions of its surface into mirror like, bank reflecting shadows and lighting up most gorgeously the golden yellow birches on the Eastern shore. Trout were rising all over it and some huge fellows sent the rings fairly from shore to shore. Animal life seemed to be here congregated chipmunks "chucked" on all sides and in the breathless stillness the rustle of every leaf stirred by their merry scampering came distinctly to the ear. While sitting near the water's edge enjoying the surpassing beauty of the place and hour we heard suddenly the light silvery whistle of wings overhead and the next moment a flock of about ten wood ducks came hurtling down into the pond; seeing us however they rose again over the tree tops

1875.
(Oct. 13)

and began circling about when fearing that they would not light we shot into them at long range and wounded one which settled in the farthest point and was immediately joined by four others. Expected as we turn to this full page we could do nothing but sit still and watch them until at length they rose and went off. Three of the five were splendid drakes and as they sat on the edge of the water preening their feathers in the last rays of the setting sun their beautiful plumage showed off to the best advantage. The hours this fall are a disappointment. Killed by the early frosts they have failed to attain anything near their usual brightness and many of the trees are now nearly bare. Zon. albicollis has been abundant for a week past. Warblers and small birds generally — with the exception of sparrows — have been very scarce. Very few good bags of woodcock have been made and of snipe we have had only a few stragglers. Saw a few Anthus ludovic. and heard a Lambritta snt. on "Great meadows". Took the 6.35 train down. A very fine Buteo lineatus ♀ was given me by D. Frazar a few days since shot Oct. 9.

D. palmarum, Yundus Pallasii

1875.

Oct. 14 Clear and another lovely day. Took the 2.15 train to Concord and leaving my hand bag at the hotel, started for Hoar's Pond where I intended to lie for ducks. Arrived at the pond I found the alder swamp below the dam fairly alive with birds and spent some time watching them. A characteristic little autumnal company was there, composed principally of white throated sparrows and yellow rumps with a fair sprinkling of D. palmarum and a few hermit thrushes. A low uninterrupted rustling in the leaves below me soon caught my attention and listening intently I heard the repressed note of a quail. Quickly changing my shells I just "shot" into the alders, but starting as he did with the impetuous rush of a setters first send off, he got into the midst of them before catching the scent and they flushed out of distance. Following on down the run the dog finally came to a steady point and for some time could not be induced to move. At length however he put up the bird, a fine old cock quail which I doubled up dead at some 25 yds. At the report another rose and came out almost in my face but keeping cool I turned in my tracks and dropped him also. The rest of the boys now commenced getting

2 quail shooting. Night call of the hermit thrush. Seiurus Ludovic. Bark of the gray squirrel

up all around me and I just managed to get in a single shell and pull on one of the last as he disappeared among the alders. Feathers came floating back on the still air and I felt convinced that my aim had been good but this bird—if killed—"Shot" was unable to find. I afterwards flushed another bird that had remained behind but being in an awkward position I fired without "getting on to him" & missed clean. I now turned my attention to the ducks and getting a good position lay at the pond till dark but nothing came in. The sunset was heaven if possible more lovely even than that of last evening. In addition to the chipmunks, a gray squirrel (S. Carolin) called frequently from a tall pine, and a winter wren (T. hyemalis) burst out several times into full song; this is the first time I ever heard the bird sing in Mass. Just after sundown a hermit thrush uttered in a low tone the night call of the species, as he sat on an alder near me; instantly it was answered by others all around the pond until the little amphitheater fairly echoed with their cries. Saw distinctly a Seiurus Ludovic. & noted other on the 11th & 13th;

2 quail 2 Very late for Mass. Spent the night with John & came home the next morning.

Marston's Mills – 1875

Quail Shooting

1875.

Oct. 19 Clear and warm in A.M. Cloudy in P.M. with heavy mist and E. wind. Left Boston on the 4 P.M. train yesterday afternoon with Messrs. Melvin & H. Buttrick, taking in addition to "Shot" my old pointer "Dart". Found Capt. Baxter and family well. This morning we started out at about 8.30 and beat all the forenoon without seeing a quail up to 11 o'clock when Shot found a bevy of about 12 birds in a briary thicket along an old fence. "Caf", Baxter's dog, backed him and both stood until ordered on. As they rose I killed right & left securing both birds. We afterwards got thru more in the pines where they scattered, but no points as they held their scent. Leaving them we kept on along the shore towards Osterville which place we had nearly reached when one of the dogs made another find in the open and both the others backing him all three drew down into a little hollow where they stood in line the two pointers on the outside & my setter in the middle. It was I think the finest sight of the kind that I ever saw but like all such, it was soon brought to a ~~close~~ end by the tumultuous, crashing burst of a fine large bevy which the next instant rose from the shelter of a bed of weeds ahead of the dogs. Eight barrels were discharged into their midst almost simultaneously, and three fell to the ground – just one bird. The whole bevy went off in

1875.
(Ret. 19)

Quail Shooting

the direction of the town and following on what was our surprise to find them scattered about in the gardens front yards and some in the very street itself. We did what shooting we could without running the risk of bagging anything undesirably large, and left them swims four of their original number. One occurrence here is worthy of record. ~~At the inst~~ A woman was ironing clothes in her kitchen one small window being open into the room. ~~Happening~~ Happening to look out she saw three birds swiftly passing the house when suddenly one of them turned ~~at~~ a sharp ~~right~~ angle in its course and darting through the open window struck against a clothes horse which stood in front of the fire covered with drying clothes, and fell to the floor. The woman was for a moment completely surprised by the suddenness of the birds appearance, but the next recovering herself she stooped to pick it up when it shot out through the window again and disappeared as quickly as it had come. This was one of the birds started at the first rise!! its life was probably saved only by the elastic character of the surface against which it struck, for so great was its impetus that the horse clothes and all was overthrown on the hearth. We afterwards

1875.
(Oct. 19)

Marston's Mills – 1875
Quail Shooting

flushed three more bevies and had good sport until dark. One of these bevies was found in the field with the wire fence, another at Parker's near the pond and the last which we started just at sunset, in the fields near Goodspeed's garden patch. The afternoon being lowery we found the bevies out feeding as early as 3 P.M. We got very few points on the birds after the bevies had scattered excepting on the bevy at Parkers where the birds lit among scrub oaks and lying well, all gave a strong scent so that a point was had on every bird. All the quail killed were fine large birds with the exception of one little fellow about half grown which I killed from a bevy of full sized birds. Started about a dozen grouse and I killed three in four shots. Met a Capt. Hodges whom Capt. Baxter knew and who accompanied us through the afternoon. He had just come in from coot shooting with two birds, a coot and a Colymbus septentrionalis. We reported fowl of all kinds abundant in the sound. Deer are apparently not as numerous as usual on the cape and few have been killed in this town. The bag of birds was as follows. W. B. quail 11 – Grouse 3. Patrick, quail 7 – Grouse 1. G. C. M. quail 6 –
Total 24 quail – 4 grouse

Quail Shooting

1875.
Oct. 20 Cloudy in the morning; clear, warm and lovely in the afternoon. Off together at 9 A.M. striking E. over the same ground as yesterday. In Goodspeeds field Jim started and killed a turtle dove. Near the boat house swamp Shot nett come to a fine point on a pair of grouse which I fired a double shot as they rose just inside the swamp, missing both birds. H Parkes Shot reloaded and found the remnant of the bevy shot into yesterday; and as they rose I fired a double shot into them missing again a rather hard shot. Following them into the oaks they gave out scent freely as was the case yesterday and I killed one and Buttrick another. Shot also picked up a third which was so stiff that we concluded it had been killed yesterday. Eat lunch in Mr. Hodges shop and after a smoke set out again and beat till 3 P.M. when "Cap" ran into a very large bevy near the Irishman Evan's field. Getting them into a bad place we had poor success killing only 4 birds of which I scored 2. Found nothing more until sundown when we struck into Goodspeeds fields and again started the bevy which we shot into last night. Shot first struck

Marston's Mills – 1875
Quail Shooting

1875.
(Oct. 20)

the scent and roaded ~~within~~ beautifully till he came to the birds which were feeding out in the middle of the field. Prince at the same moment came up from the opposite side and ~~[illegible]~~ taking the scent of the bird from the wind, drew up magnificently till near the motionless setter when both stood as immovable as if carved in ~~stone~~. The ~~[illegible]~~ quick, sure motions of both dogs ~~[illegible]~~ in finding the birds, and their exceptionally fine attitudes as they stood, joined to the surpassing beauty of the scene as it lay bathed in the full, rich quiet of a glowing Oct. sunset, made the whole occurrence one to be remembered and I doubt not that my companion as well as myself would have been glad could it have been prolonged a few minutes longer, but a slight advance on the part of the pointer broke the spell and the whirring bevy the next instant filled the air. Two birds fell to our four barrels. Following them into the cover we found only one bird which went off unshot at. I killed two grouse at this place and started for the house fairly exhausted by my days work although the tramp had not been a very severe one. Went to bed feeling quite unwell. Find, find at ~~two~~ of the birds counted in my score, W. B. 2 quail 6 – grouse 2 – Battrick quail 4 – grouse 2. J. C. M. dove 1
Total quail 10 – grouse 4 – dove 1 = 15 birds

Quail Shooting

1875.
Oct. 21 Cloudy in A. M. clearing up by noon. I son this morning feeling very sick and used up ~~and~~ the others went off without me They struck up to the W. around the town house and started during the day two large bevies of quail and a few grouse. Woodcock borings were seen in several corn fields near the town house. The bag was J. C. M quail 4. Buttrick quail 4 - Baxter quail 1 Total 9 bird. I remained in the house all day and before going to bed at night took a good sweat.

Oct. 22 Clear and very warm with S. wind. Still feeling sick I again spent the day in the house. The others set out as usual and after flushing a bevy in the swamp below the house and killing three birds they tramped all day without seeing anything until just at night they flushed a very large bevy between the shop and the river and bagged three more birds. Melvin quail 3 — Buttrick quail 3. Total 6 birds.

Oct. 23 Clear and warm. Started for home this morning, I feeling rather better, and reached Boston at 10.25 A. M.

Resumé

Total bag of W.B. quail 17 - grouse 5 = 22 birds
" " " Buttrick " - 18 - " 3 = 21 "
" " " Melvin " - 13 - " 3 = 16
Baxter
57

Abundance of small birds

Nov. 3 Clear still, and though cold, a most lovely day. Have been confined to the house by sickness ever since my return from the Cape, but this morning unable to endure ~~con~~ imprisonment any longer I took my gun and walking up to the farm spent the whole forenoon collecting. Small birds were more abundant than I ever saw them before at this season. This I think may be explained by the fact that the weather up to within the last three days has been very mild and the later birds have consequently remained up North. Yesterday and the day before were both, cold windy disagreeable days, the thermometer reaching 35°. by noon and snow in greater or less quantity announced from all parts of Northern N. E. This sudden advance of winter has driven the birds S. en masse. Especially abundant this morning were Pas. iliaca, Turdus Pallasii, Pag. Patrapa, Junco hyemalis, Parus atricapillus, and Cyanura cristata. Saw also two Spizella monticola, several Sitta Carolinensis, do. Cheny. tristis, one Certhia Am. one Regulus calendula (?) and at least 30 Regul. coronata. Had remarkable luck in my shooting, bagging 18 birds in 28 shots. The birds are now nearly all down in the deciduous woods but I was surprised to find so

Late insect life, Bird remains in crop of Buteo lineatus

many green things untouched by the frost, under the shelter of the evergreen groves. On the cedar ridge, especially in the warm nooks were little clumps of bushes and vines as green and fresh as in Sept. and some of these little spots were very lovely indeed, the effect reminding one of the sensation experienced upon entering a greenhouse in mid-winter. The grass in the fields is however still green everywhere. As the sun reached the zenith and the mercury rose to about 40° I was surprised to observe the abundance of insect life, crawling about in sheltered places. Diptera were most numerously represented but I also heard the faint notes of a few grasshoppers, and saw two or three of the common yellow field butterflies flying about — and, most curious sight of all, over the surface of a pool ~~[illegible]~~ which was entirely encased in ice were hovering a pair of red winged Nebrophera joined together in sexual communion. A very fine adult ♂ Buteo lineatus was shot on the hill behind Frank's yesterday, by A. Faxon. I dissected the bird and found in its crop and stomach remains of a ♂ Ostyx Virgin, a very small shrew (Sorex) and a singular looking mole which being headless I could not make out. This is the first time I've found bird remains in a Buteo

Quail shooting - 1875

1875.

Nov. 5 Clear still and a fine Nov. day. Started immediately after breakfast with Storm and got Charles to drive us up into Prospect St. Belmt. where he left us at about 9 o'clock. Had scarcely left the road when we heard a quail whistle in the distance. Although equipped mainly for collecting I had taken the precaution to slip about a half a dozen No. 8's in my pocket and having Shot with us we immediately followed up the sound and soon came upon the bevy in a little hollow among the bushes. About 12 birds got up and I fired both barrels without success (I had taken out with me Melvins awkward little 24 inch Br. lds) None of the birds went over 100 yds. before dropping along the edge of a little meadow and following them I fired 4 shots, killing 3 quail. Storm got some five or six shots & killed one bird, cutting his head clearly off at 10 paces. Here we heard a grouse drum eight or ten times in succession and going to the spot I got a hard shot and missed both barrels. Coming back I had another good chance at a grouse and missed this also with both barrels being unused to the gun. Leaving this bevy we had proceeded not over 1/4 of a mile when a small bevy of eight birds ran the further side of a wall and firing my remaining shell (loaded 4 drs X 1 oz No 6 shot) I killed a fine female bird at 40 paces. Following

Ag. linaria, Chry. pinus
Porzana Noveboracensis Picus villosus

then I put in two squib charges and snapped at scared birds within short range but of course without success. Finally marking two quail down into a maple swamp we followed and ~~had~~ starting one was looking for the other when I stepped right into the middle of a fresh bevy of about a dozen birds which gave me a fine chance as they rose but against which my "squibs" were of course useless. We hunted for these birds but a short distance when Charles appeared with the carryall and we returned to the house in time for dinner. With old Dart and plenty of shells I could easily have bagged 15 quail; such chances always come when least expected. I took only 4 small birds 2 Parus atri 1 Junco and a ♀ Sitta Carolinensis. Saw a few Chry. pinus and numbers of C. tristis. Storm shot a very fine T. Pallasii. Two Ag. linaria were shot by Arthur Smith in Brooklin Oct. 31st. Nelson started 6 woodcock at Concord on the 1st inst and the same number the next day. Two fine Porzana Noveboracensis were killed at Wakefield by Goodale during the past month. Picus villosus was on yard this morning

W. B. quail 4
W. Storm " 1

Ipswich Nov. 8 — 1875
Brachyotus palustris - Passerculus princeps

1875.
Nov. 8 Clear with wind N.E. and rather cold in the morning, but calm and fine in P.M. With Stone took the 8.30 A.M. train for Ipswich where we arrived at 10 A.M. Hired a "dory" of one Wm Stone and started down river with a favorable tide but a strong head wind. Reached the sand hills after some pretty hard pullings (on S's part) and landing went in search of Pas. princeps. Had gone but a little ways when I started a Brachyotus Cassinii out of a little hollow: it rose with clumsy flappings and went off with dangling legs until I stopped it with a charge of dust shot at about 30 paces. Picking it up wounded it struck at me fiercely with its talons and erected the feathers of the head in such a way that that number looked nearly as large as one's two fists. Continuing on we searched all the hollows in vain for the "Ipswich sparrow" but upon beating along the ridge of beach grass above high water mark I finally started one which ran out of range and going a little way lit again: Walking quickly to the spot it ran again at about 25 yd and I gave it both barrels without apparent effect! this time it flew a long ways and though I distinctly saw it light and went directly to the spot I was unable to again flush it. Afterwards while eating lunch in a little sunny hollow back among the sand hills one of these birds flew by us twice

1875.
(Nov. 8)

but in both cases out of gunshot. Their ~~the~~ life is precisely like that of P. savanna but they seem a much wilder species. Warren and Town killed seven specimens at Brant rock Mass. during the latter part of Oct. After shooting a o Jones we started up river and landed right near the gunning houses. Found Phe. nivalis very abundant along the foot of the hills and just above high water mark. We shot a few and observed a most curious case of bird confidance. A flock had risen out of range but noticing that one remained behind I approached with the intention of shooting it; when however I had arrived within range I thought that I would flush and kill it on wing and with this design I walked up to within six feet of it but now all thoughts of taking its life vanished for to my intense amazement it still continued busily feeding without ~~seem~~ designing to look up at me. Putting down my gun I actually succeeded in touching its back with the tips of my fingers when as if displeased at such a familiarity on my part it hopped off a few feet and looked up at me with a curious expression of vague wonder in its clear little eyes. Calling up S. we sat down on the ground and with the bird between us and within reach

1875

(Nov. 8)

Eremophila cornutus – Anthus ludovic
~~Plectrophanes~~ Bonapartii – Harelda glacialis

of our arms we watched it a long time as it stripped off the seeds from the grasses and picked up little particles of sand or gravel. Finally I again essayed to capture it by dropping my hat over it, but ~~this to~~ missing my aim it ran, now fairly alarmed and making off with rapid flight joined a flock of its companions which were feeding across the river. It evidently was in perfect health and spirits but had probably never made the acquaintance of the dangerous species Homo before. Here we also saw a single large flock of Eremophila alpestris and two Anthus ludovic. Both of the latter we shot, S. killing one of them from the roof of one of the deserted houses. S. also killed an immature Pinicola enucleator which was hopping about on the ground near the water's edge. I fired two long shots at gulls (L. argentatus) and hit one of them very hard, but he got off. The owl proved on dissection a ♀ and had the stomach fairly crammed with mice (Arvic. riparius). Just before sunset we ascended a high hill behind the cottages and were rewarded by a most superb view. Coming up river at sundown the scenery was also most lovely. Reached home by 8 P.M.

Received to day from Fisher at Nantucket 4 Larus Bonapartii ♂, a fine ♂ Harelda alba & ♀ of the latter was shot on Fresh Pond this morning by Abbot Frazar & given me by that gentleman

1875.

Nov. 12 Clear, still, and a lovely day. Jim N. came out at 2 P.M. and we started immediately in my buggy for Belmont. Put up the horse at Brown's and commenced our beat in the sun behind Cotton's. The first bird started was a grouse which Jim killed very prettily. Next old Dart found and pointed but Jim's dog coming up, he broke his point and ran in on a large bevy of quail, at least 20 strong. They flew a very long distance and began to whistle almost as soon as they lit. Following them up we found two single birds and shot one of them both firing at the same bird. At the report of our guns the rest of the bevy, which had by this time run together, ran ahead of us at least 100 yds. and went off unshot at. Afterwards started another scattered bird and I shot him. Flushed seven grouse altogether & three of them from alongside a long line of snares. Over these damn snares was posted a notice threatening murderous violence to any person who should molest them in any way. Left the quail and went in search of another bevy but did not succeed in starting anything more, excepting a rabbit which I shot. Reached home by 6 P.M.

W. B. quail 2 (-1/2). Rabbit 1

J. C. N. Grouse 1 — Quail 1 (-1/2)

Troglodytes hyemalis — Hes. ulicophus
Icterus Baltimore

Nov. 13 Clear still and mild with S. wind. Off after dinner with Danielson driving up to Chenery's where we put up the horse. Beat first the line of swamps behind his barn and started two grouse, both of which shot pointed handsomely. Both ~~fired~~ of us fired at the second bird as it rose and at the last shot it mounted into the air to a surprising height and flew ~~till~~ fairly out of sight. Next beat up the long valley behind Brown's without starting anything. Saw several T. Pallasii and Pas. ilicka here. Came back by way of Prospect St. and beat some distance down the Belmont Run until finally giving up we were about starting for the team when I heard the sharp tick of a winter wren (T. hyemalis) and immediately ~~the~~ set out in pursuit. Finally getting a shot at him as he hopped up for an instant on top of a stone wall I fired, killing him and starting up a bevy of about 10 quail which rose from the further side of the wall almost directly under where he had been killing. It was now almost dark and we followed them but a short distance and found only a single bird which shot pointed in an open field, and pointed so steadily that it was with difficulty that I induced him to go on. As the bird rose I fired both barrels but missed in the uncertain light. Picked up a pretty little Vireo ~~oliveaceus~~ Uliceophus in gray plumage & dead.

A fine adult Icterus Baltimore was shot to day at Wellesley & sent to E. A. Maynard. It was in perfect plumage & good condition and showed no signs of injury of any kind.

Quail Shooting. Last snipe of the season

1875.

Nov. 17 Clear with a very high wind - almost a hurricane in fact. Jim. N. came out at noon and we started together in the buggy immediately after dinner. Had a very cold disagreeable drive up, the wind coming in such violent gusts that the horse could with difficulty make progress against it. Put up at Chenery's and commenced our beat to the S. W. In the second swamp Jim's old dog "Prince" came to a stady point and Jim walking up to him stepped unexpectedly into the midst of a large bevy of quail, at least 18 birds. As the birds rose they separated about half going each way - up, and down wind. Those that took the former direction went not over 100 yds, making very slow progress against the gale that was blowing and dropped in the lower corner of the swamp. Following them we got several shots and I killed two birds and lost another which towered and drifted off before the wind. Next, following the other division, I killed two more birds firing in all 8 shots at quail & two at a pair of grouse. Jim fired only two shots and bagged nothing. Leaving these birds we struck across country to the Belmont line and hunted until dark for that bevy but without success. The last snipe W. B. quail 4 was shot by Melvin at Concord Nov. 15

Coluber sirtalis

1875.

Nov. 18 Clear still and a fine day. Jim left his old dog Prince with me for trial and this morning I drove up to the hill with Stone and put up the horse in an old barn on Pleasant St. On the way up saw a fine ~~Lagopus in the~~ Archibuteo in the Lagopus plumage, poised over the fields below Belmont. Beat up the Belmont run and across Prospect St. to Cotton's run, the old dog flushing several grouse out of range on the way. Finally he found a bevy of 5 quail in the Cotton run and as they rose I shot one. Got back to the house by 1 P.M. W.B. quail!

Nov. 19 Clear and another fine day. Thr. 18° at sunrise. Took old Prince again this morning and with S. drove up to Brown's where we put up the horse. Beat the Cotton run and the swamps behind Chenery's also the whole Clematis brook valley without starting a quail. We however started a pair of grouse from a patch of briars & wild rose bushes, in the middle of a perfectly open field, the whole available cover not exceeding 6 ft in extent: Stone went by this little thicket literally within a few feet, and after he had got nearly out of gun shot the two birds rose behind him. Was much surprised to see a large striped snake (C. sirtalis) in perfect health & vigor and as lively as in June.

1875
Nov. 20 Rained hard last night and cleared off in the morning. ~~Left~~ Started off with Eustis at 8.30 and drove up to Cotton's where we put up ~~the~~ horse. Beat carefully all the runs behind his place but started nothing except two grouse, a bevy of 4 or 5 quail and three rabbits. I made a double shot on the quail (starting them myself unexpectedly among some high bushes) missed a shot each at a rabbit & grouse, and killed a rabbit. Eustis did not fire a shot. Afterwards beat on to and behind Chenery's without seeing anything.
W.B. quail 2. rabbit 1 Saw a fine Collurio borealis

Sunday
Nov. 21 Went into Boston this P.M. and called on Mr. Chas. B. Cory. He showed me a collection of some 1000 skins made by him on the Nile in Egypt. He had also a fair collection of N.A. skins including a number of rare species. Among other things I noticed a young ♂ Bucephala Islandica showing in faint tracery the white lunate spot on the head.
Pine grosbeaks and redpolls are reported in small numbers. Turdus migratorius I see every day in small numbers. Have noticed no large migrating flocks of them this fall.

1875.

Nov. 22

Habits of the black variety of

Ipswich Mass. Nov. 22 – 1875.

Clear and cold with strong N. wind. With S. took the 8.30 train for Ipswich and hiring a boat set off down river. Had proceeded about half a mile and was rowing close in shore when happening to glance up I saw ~~[illegible]~~ sailing past within about 40 yds. a fine ♀ Archibuteo lagopus. Picking up my gun I sent a charge of No 3 through her and dropped her dead into the river. She had been sitting on some tall oaks on the bank and had allowed us to row fairly past her before taking wing. Shoving on down river S. shot a fine adult Buteo agentatus which tried to pass by us. Coming to "the Neck" we soon espied three fine black hawks Archibuteo "Sancti Johannes", suspended in the air breasting the wind, and scanning the ground below for miles. These three birds remained the entire day in this spot which must have possessed uncommon attractions for them. If we landed they immediately left, flying across to some of the other hills but within ten minutes of our departure they would return. They were so shy that in a number of trials we succeeded in getting only one shot and that a very long one. In habits and motions I could not perceive that they differed at all from the more common bird "lagopus". They spent nearly all their time suspended over one spot, and I noticed that each individual of the three had its own place to

1875.
(Nov. 22) which it invariably returned. The appearance of this three birds hanging suspended in the air at the height of about 50 ft. all within a radius of 100 yds. and for many minutes without a single movement was very very interesting. Sometimes when the wind came in gusts, they seemed to have some difficulty in preserving their equilibrium and flapped their wings rapidly at frequent intervals, but in every event their exact place was maintained to an inch. Their descent on their prey was made (as described on p. 132 journal of 1873) in cycloid curves. At times all three would rise to an immense height in the air and sail in company. This sailing was performed with extraordinary ease and grace and the appearance of the bird and the position of the wings was very nearly like that of Cathartes aura. Heard no cry or note of any kind. The frequently sit on the ground usually on the top of some elevated knoll. Walked out to the sand hills behind Woodbury's when I shot a single ♂ Plec. nivalis; saw only one or two others of that species and perhaps as many E. cornuta. When the small birds were I cannot imagine, as we looked everywhere for them, saw a few Mergus serrator & great numbers of gulls including several L. marinus, reached home by 8 P.M.

Scops Asio

1875.

Nov. 24 Clear and still. In the house all day working on my birds. Finishing up a half hour or so before sunset, I took my gun and walked up to the pine swamp to try for an owl. Had about given it up and was striking for the road when I suddenly spied a little red Scops within ten yards of me. He was sitting on a maple sapling over a ditch and undoubtedly on the look out for mice. I had got so near him before seeing him that I was obliged to back off before shooting. Upon dissection I found his stomach entirely empty with the exception of a few feathers. His body was fairly cased in a very watery kind of fat which emitted a strong and rather disagreeable odor.

Thanksgiving
Nov. 25 Clear still and one of the most lovely days of the year. Thur. 24th at sunrise. Spent the forenoon rifle shooting in the sand bank behind Wm Blacks when 15 of us contested for the ownership of two prizes. The first of them was won by R. Deane by a score of 19 out of a possible 25. Second by J. C. Russell, score 16. My score was 15. After dinner Charlie and I drove up to Cotton's where we put up the horse and commenced our beat. For a long time saw nothing until finally Shot found a grouse in a maple swamp and held his

1875.

(Nov. 25) point finely until Charlie came up and shot the bird as it ran. From here struck over to Cheney's swamps where Shot struck the scent of the boy exactly on the spot where Jim & I found them on the 17th inst, and roaded it down to the point of the alders where he found and pointed the birds. Although we had a good chance at them our four barrels failed to stop anything. Following them up however Shot made them staunch points on scattered birds and Charlie killed two of them. I find at a single bird and took out lots of feathers but failed to kill him Saw a few robins and one Passerella iliaca the last probably.
C. Cater quail 2. grouse 1

Nov. 29 Clear but very cold and windy, thermometer to 15 at 10 P.M. Started off after breakfast with Eustis and drove up to Cyrus Billington's where we left the horse and hunted in the country about, till late in the P.M. when we became disgusted, having seen nothing except one grouse, and started for home. On the way back saw a very brown Colluric borealis

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Dec. 1 Clear & cold, Ther. 0° at sunrise. Jim came out in P.M. and we went up on the hill after quail but started nothing all the P.M. Saw two Pinicola enucleator both m.

Late occurrence of Nyctiardea var. Gardenii

1875.

Dec. 2 Clear still and a pleasant day. Thr. 2° at sunrise. Left the house about 3 P.M. and started up through the swamps taking Shot. Everything was frozen solid and the walking very good everywhere. Just across the R.R. track as I was entering the maple swamp a grouse rose within 20 yds. of me; it was still as death but although I ~~watched~~ stopped the instant I saw the bird have the ground I could hear not the slightest whirring of wings or sound of any kind, and this in spite of the fact that the bird got up with more than usual celerity and went off with the usual swift direct flight. Keeping on after it I came to Alewife brook which I found entirely open, kept so by the warm sewerage matter now discharged into it. While walking along its bank I saw sitting under the sunny side of a large bush a bird which I took for a barred owl, but which upon my shooting, turned out to be a Nyctiardea Gardenii. The mystery of its presence here so late was satisfactorily explained upon my picking it up when I found that one of the wings had been broken, and had healed in such a way that the ~~wing~~ bream it could not be used in flight. The bird was in very good condition and had evidently established itself for the winter by the open ditch where it could obtain food. That a very low temperature can be endured by many of our summer birds is now well known and in this case the bird had probably

(Dec. 2) passed through weather as severe as any it would be called upon to endure (the mercury reached 6° below 0 on the morning of Nov. 30th) Keeping on up to the pine swamp I started up a winter wren among the bushes but although I was on the point of firing several times, I finally lost it. While standing near the edge of little patch of clear ice among tussucks & alders, Shot who was poking about near me started out a most beautiful little Hesperiomes leucopus from under a bunch of grass, and I was much pleased at the way the little fellow scrambled across the glassy surface and precipitately sought shelter in a hole on the other side; he was in the tawny winter pelage & quite unlike the one I picked up some weeks ago. Keeping on a little ways Shot drew on a strong scent & finally pointed when a grouse got up ahead. I fired both barrels at it and following it into the middle of the swamp shot both barrels again missing as before when it flew out among the tall pines & suddenly sweeping upward lit on a dead limb some 30 ft up. Approaching cautiously I shot it unceremoniously where it sat. Its position was rather unusual the body being nearly horizontal & the neck not very much stretched out. Beating the rest of the swamp Shot a fine cock grouse which the dog drove out to me.

W. B. bag. grouse 2

1875.

Dec. 3 Clear, perfectly still, and cold. Thm 10° – 36° – 24°. A most superlatively lovely winter day, one of the most perfect in fact that I ever remember spending in the woods. Rose early and with R. B. Nesbitt took the 7.10 B. R. R. train for Concord & arriving found Jim waiting at the station. Set out at once striking directly N. and crossing the "red bridge" were soon in the woods and at work. Spent a most enjoyable day and had fair sport putting up some 35 grouse altogether of which we killed four. Two of them I shot another which Jim & myself find at proved upon dissection to have been hit by both, and the fourth though fired at by all three was pretty universally conceded to have received its death wound at the first shot which I fired. The case of this bird is a good instance of the grouse's tenacity of life at this season; as it ran and flew across me I fired both barrels & at the second report it struck forcibly into a birch top & came fluttering down nearly to the ground when recovering itself it toward straight up to the height of perhaps 100 yds and went off over the woods apparently as well as ever receiving as it passed over their heads the four barrels of my companions: by one of them (Nesbitt) it was seen to strike into a pine tree at least 1/4 of a mile from the

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1875.
(Dec. 3)

place where I saw, and going to this same tree it was picked up dead by one of the dogs nearly 100 yds beyond. Upon examination we found both eyes were shot through, a leg broken, and blood flowing from several wounds in the body. Another bird had both legs fairly shattered and the end of one wing nearly denuded of feathers and yet managed to fly about the usual distance and started again from a pine with nearly as much vigor as at first. As a rule we started our birds in the first instance in the alder runs and still more invariably they flew directly for the thickest pines and took to tree. If we passed under or nearly under the tree on which the bird sat it would take flight, getting under way too with marvellous rapidity. The crops of two examined contained principally clover leaves with a few cranberries & acorns. Saw some six or eight in Pinicola enucleator, and shot, to my great surprise a Hasfoshynchus ~~rufus~~ which started out from under a pine shrub. It was in good plumage & ~~apparently~~ quite fat but had one of the wings broken & grown together again ~~fat condition~~.
The country through which we hunted is most wild & picturesque nearly all pine clad & without a house or cultivated field, in miles of distance.

Bag W.B. grouse 4. M. grouse (1) N. do (1)
I fired 15 shots & Jim 14

1875.

Dec. 6 Clear and a lovely mild day. Thm. 36° at noon. Spent the forenoon in the house at work on birds, ~~but the~~ P.M. struck up into the swamps with Stow. In the brickyard swamps saw at last three Mel. melodia and shot two of them at a shot. In the pine swamp we beat for grouse and by standing on the ice in the little pond and ~~beating~~ shot around the edge I got a fine shot at a ♀ grouse which he started and killed her with the first barrel. Leaving him we struck across the frozen meadows to "Block's" marsh where I spied a Scops sitting in the top of a leafless alder bush and over a ditch which still remained opened in places; it was already dim twilight and I had but just made up my mind that the upright darkly outlined object was really an owl when he started at least 60 yds from me and with a peculiar flapping woodcock like flight ~~skimmed~~ across the open meadow with ghost like ease & swiftness and disappeared in the gloom of the wooded hill, where we followed and searched for him in vain. This and other owls are undoubtedly much more common than is usually supposed. Their habit, apart from their nocturnal proclivities, much resembles those of the Buteos especially in this habit of sitting on the watch on ditches etc. A Scol. ferrugineus was shot by Frazar in Watertown Nov. 27 — N.B. ground!

Pinnicola enucleator

1875.
Dec. 4 Snow fell last night to the depth of about 1 inch. Cloudy all day with occasional snow squalls. Had my horse harnessed directly after breakfast and starting off alone drove up to Chenery's where I put up the horse. Beating first the line of swamps behind his barn I came across the track of a grouse in the snow, and following it down into the densest part of the swamp flushed the bird, a fine cock, and shot him dead as he was disappearing among the bushes. He had been out feeding in the low thickets adjoining the swamp and dissection revealed a crop full of wild rose and buck thorn berries. Saw also here a flock of about 20 Pinnicola enucleator, all imm. and at other places during the day as many more perhaps. Goodale has had two adults. sent in. From here struck across to the ~~Belmont~~ Fletcher run ~~where~~ near where I struck the fresh tracks of a bevy of 8 quail, and following them for some distance along a wall shot finally came up with and pointed the bevy on the very summit of a little rock knoll. Stepping in ahead of him the birds got up with a grand rush. Catching two as they crossed in their flight, I dropped both with my first barrel, and with the second knocked over a fine old cock which was making off to the left. Following the remaining five I ~~killed~~ shot two of them breaking their wings & bringing them home alive, & left the remaining 3 birds for breeders. Bag W.B. grouse 1 – quail 5 – in 7 shots

Quail shooting Carpod. purpureus

1875.

Dec. 10 Cloudy and a chill, dreary day. Off after breakfast with Stone driving up to Waverly where we put up the horse at Stearns'. By great good luck, we had had gone but a few rods from the stable door when a bevy of about 10 quail rose literally in the yard in which the house stood, and among a grove of pines. Flitting up as they did, they dropped down again within a few yards. Making a circuit so as to drive them in the right direction I sent ~~on~~ Shot and when he was within about 20 yds. of them he pulled up but had hardly done so when the bevy rose and went off unshot at. Following them ~~up~~ up onto the hill we chased them all the forenoon through the big Waverly woods. They were very wild, lay but poorly and seemed to give out but little if any scent, so that we did not get a single ~~shot~~ point on any of them. I fired 8 shots and Stone rather more he having decidedly better chances than I. ~~Left~~ Left them at 1 P.M. having scattered them all over the woods, and being fairly disgusted with the birds the dog, and the shooting generally. Stone did not get a single bird, while I managed to bring down ~~two~~ two.

Saw a small flock of ~~Pinus~~ Carpodacus purpureus, a good many blue jays. Colaptes auratus is with us ~~in~~ about the usual numbers. Small birds of all kinds are unusually scarce this winter.

W. B. bag quail 2

1875.

Dec. 11 Clear and a beautiful day. Off after breakfast with Stone taking the car up to the farm. In the pines along the Mt. Auburn boundary fence heard a great outcry from a flock of crows and approaching as cautiously as we could a great horned owl started out of a large pine and made off followed by his prosecutors. This time he lighted in the top of tall leafless oak in the cemetery, and Stone leaving his gun with me, climbed the fence and made a circuit so as to drive him back to me if possible. While he was gone I had a fine chance to watch the bird and the actions of the crows. Sitting all around him some of them within a few feet, they kept up a continuous clamor which upon the slightest movement on his part fairly swelled to an uproar, some of the birds cawing until their voices actually cracked. The owl sitting erect seemed to regard the ~~[illegible]~~ insults of the crows with the most sovereign dignity and contempt. ~~Swelling~~ the mob were also a number of blue jays. At length the owl, started by Stone, took flight, followed closely by the crows, and came directly for the place of my concealment: letting him get a little inside of 30 yds I rose up, fell on to him deliberately and pulled, when, "o miserable dicta", the cartridge missed fire

Nyctea nivea

(Dec. 11) and at the snap he turned his flight and ere I could pull the other trigger was nearly out of sight among the pines; I fired but without effect, and he went off high up over the woods leaving me very much disgusted. His flight was direct and very easy with alternate flappings and sailings. After this beat over the farm for quail but without starting anything. Got back in time for dinner without having killed a bird. At 2 P. M. Danielson came up and we drove over to Medford where we put up the horse in a livery stable and struck for the woods. Found a very wild country behind the town but although we beat over considerable ground we saw only one grouse and that so wild that it flushed both times entirely out of range. Picked up a dead grouse which somebody had shot and which we found lying on its breast on the ice. Saw three Pinicola enucleator. Nyctea nivea has occurred in unusual numbers this season. Goodale has had 8 specimens already, Brewster & Gilman on Washington St. have a live specimen in a cage in their window. It has all the characteristic motions of the other large owls especially that peculiar sideway swaying of the head, is quite savage and snaps its bill loudly when the cage is tapped with the finger.

Quail shooting – Last day of the season

Dec. 14 – 1875

1875.

Dec. 14 Clear and cold, with very high N.W. wind. Rose rather early and getting breakfast started off at about 8 in the express wagon, with Robert Nesbitt, Charles driving us. Being put down at the foot of the hill in Waverley, near Stearn's, we commenced our beat towards the N. On the hill side I made a very hard snap shot at a rabbit which bounced out from among some barberry bushes. After this we kept along the Eastern slope of the hill nearly over to Arlington village which point we reached by 1 P.M. without having fired a shot or started either fur or feather of any description. Sitting down in a sunny place lunch was soon disposed of and we started again. Soon after this I shot a very fine adult Red Pineola enucleator which was in company with three or four in all. Turning now back toward home we struck into the upper end of the Cotton run and beat down through there starting thru grass and a rabbit. The first bird I trod out literally from under my feet in an alder run, and killed easily enough! The next rose within a few yards of me but gave me a rather harder shot and I missed both barrels. The third Robert fired at and missed, while the rabbit I shot at at long range and missed. In the lower end of the run we met an acquaintance of N's on Charles

1875.
Dec. 14.

Newcomb by name, who said he could take us to a place where he had scattered and left a large bevy of quail. Following his guidance we soon heard several birds calling in the corner lot opposite Brown's and two rose the next moment from the other side of a wall and though shot at by each of my companions got off unhurt. The next moment Shot pointed stiffly directly into the wall and though I repeatedly urged him on refused to stir. N. coming up thrust his arm into the wall in front of the dogs nose and actually touched a quail which the dog was pointing and which the next instant whirred out the other side and fell, shot at the same moment by Newcomb and myself, and coolly pocketed by him without any remarks on either side. The next shot I got was out on the open meadow where Shot pointed a bird among the grass and I missed it with both barrels, my only excuse being fingers numbed with cold. Next Robert started 5 birds at once & I killed a hen bird after he had shot at it. Shot soon found one of the others and pointed it in fine style until Robert came up and got into position when with much difficulty I set him on and the bird fell at the report of our fourth barrel, fired by myself. It proved a fine cock and with the hen made the largest pair of quail I ever killed: I also noticed that all the other birds of the bevy looked of unusual size. I think this was at last a new one is the same that Newcomb said that we got up at the first of nest. Started from Brown's at dark and reached the house by 6 P.M. Nov. 12. Walking all the way from Sam about a dozen Pinnola quail & 1 rabbit. Shot fine all day.

Bag W.B. quail 3 - grouse 1 - rabbit 1

Nyctale acadica
Rana pipiens

1875.

Dec. 16 Cloudy and warm. Light dust of snow fell last evening but disappeared to day. Spent the forenoon mounting the ♀ quail shot on the 14th. The ♂ I mounted yesterday. At 3 P.M. started up into the swamps with Stone taking a 16 gauge gun belonging to Hudson of Concord and loaned me by him for trial. Crossing Shawsheen brook I was much pleased at finding a number of frogs (Rana pipiens) sitting on its muddy edge with everything but their heads immersed. Some of them were of quite large size and all seemed active as in summer. The brook is kept open all winter by the warm sewerage matter discharged into it, and the good condition of the Nyctiardea shot here Dec. 2nd is no longer a mystery. Hurrying on we entered the pine swamp at about sunset. I had seen a Colinus fly down into the maple thicket W. of Port pond and was hunting for him when I came suddenly upon a Nyctale acadica. It was sitting on a horizontal limb over the path not 6 ft above the ground and when I first noticed it had its eyes fixed upon me. It sat perfectly erect with its feathers drawn in tightly and looked very small indeed, not one third the size of Scops in fact. (vide obs. Nov. 1874) Backing off a little way I shot a charge of dust at it when to my great disgust it started off through the trees with wonderful speed & celerity, but shooting a map shot with the other barrel I was pleased to see it fall with a broken wing. Picking it up it snapped its bill loudly and striking at my hand with its delicate little talons drew them through

The Hen cackling a question like the Spirit of a witch. Upon dissection this bird proved a ♀. The stomach contained two nearly whole specimens of small sized Sorex fodientes. Found a Blackbird's (A. phoeniceus) nest of last year, in a horizontal branch of an oak, from 6 ft up, and on a dead.

Last day of the season on ruffed
Dec. 31 — 1875

Dec. 31 Clear, still and warm, a lovely winter day. Took the 7.30 Ex. train on the F. R. R. and met Jim at Concord junction. Then taking a freight train on the C. L. & N. we got off at Robbin's mills and commenced our beat. I shot a Scaffer mug. ldr. 11g. which I had on trial while Jim used Charlie Carter's gun. Had a very pleasant days sport, starting some 25 grouse and bagging 6 between us. The birds, as might be expected in so fine a day, were mostly found out in very open situations, and in several instances lay very hard. One in particular which Shot found in an alder run, lay so close that I found it impossible to get the dog to start at all, and Jims dog being sent in to flush it, it rose within four feet of Shots nose. They are wonderfully tough at this season. All six of our birds were secured only by their being very ruffed though with one exception all were more or less shot in the body and one literally riddled, and that too with English chilled Shot No 7. In one place a bird went out of a tall pine over our heads: both guns were discharged at the same instant and he came pitching down heading to the earth but when within four feet of it, he recovered himself and striking into a small pine fluttered through it, then struck another and for some time his laborious progress could be traced

Dec. 31 – 1875

1875. (Dec. 31)

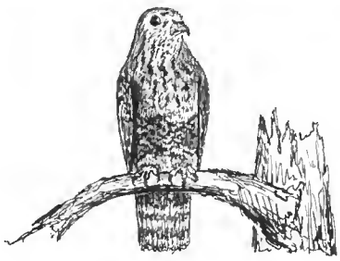
by the sound of his wings. Going to the spot where last we heard him we searched in vain, and never saw him again. Another which I im shot at within 15 yds. fell in the open and immediately getting upon his feet commenced walking off with slow majestic tread, lowering his head occasionally as if feeding, and at every step jetting his tail elegantly. After watching him for some time in amazement as he seemed not to regard ~~our~~ presence on the least, we went up to him and picked him up without any difficulty and then the mystery was explained not only was his wing broken but the life blood was welling to his bill and at each downward movement of the head bright drops of gore fell upon the leaves. A noble old cock he was, and without doubt had his wing been untouched, we should have watched his whirring flight, a hundred rods or more off over the birches. Nearly all the birds started within flying distance of the pines took to them and lit in the trees. In such cases unless the pine is a very tall one, the bird invariably starts when you get nearly under him. Saw a surprising number of rabbits, at least 25 during the day. Had supper at the hotel and took the 6.36 train home

W. B. 4 grouse (1/2) 9 shots. J. C. H. 3 grouse (1/2) 14 shots
Total bag 6 grouse

1875 Summary of the season of 1875 – Game record with dates of Capture etc.

			Total
Woodcock	1 (July 5) 2 (Sept 13)		3
Quail	2 (Oct 15) 11 (Oct 19) 6 (Oct 20)	4 (Nov 5) 2 (Nov. 12) 1 (Nov. 17) 2 (Nov 19) 4 (N. 13) 5 (Dec 9) 2 (D. 10) 3 (D. 14)	42
Ruffed grouse	3 (" 19) 2 (" 20) 2 (Dec 2)	4 (Dec 3) 1 (Dec. 6) 1 (Dec. 9) 1 (Dec. 14) 4 (Dec 31)	18
Wilson's Snipe	4 (Apr. 22) 1 (Apr. 12) 1 (Sept 13)	1 (Oct 2) 2 (Oct 9)	9
Sora rail	2 (July 28) 4 (Oct. 2) 2 (Oct)	2 Oct. 14	10
Virginia "	1 (Aug 4) 1 (July 28)		2
Jack (Hudsonian) Curlew	1 (Sept 25) 1 (Sept 27)		2
"Beetle head" plover	2 (" 24)		2
Golden "	5 (" 25)		5
"Red breast" "	1 (" 21)		1
Field or upland "	1 (" ")		1
Grass bird	1 (" ")		1
Stilt sandpiper	1 (" ")		1
Turnstone	1 (" ") 1 (Sept 27)		2
Summer yellow leg	1 (Aug 4) 1 (" 7)		2
Winter " "	1 (Sept 7)		1
Night heron	1 (Aug 4) 1 (Sept. 31)		2
Bittern	1 (Apr)		1
Least bittern			
Wild pigeon	1 (Sept)		1
Wood duck	2 (Sept 25)		2
Blue wing teal	1 (" ")		1
Sandling	12 (" 24) 9 (Sept 25) 6 (S. 29)		27
Rabbit (Lepus sylvaticus)	1 (Nov. 12) 1 (Nov. 19) 1 (Dec. 14)		3

The shooting this Autumn as compared with all kinds of game scarce with the exception of quail, which have been more abundant than any season within my experience, with the exception of the memorable fall of 72 when this members both here and on the Cape, were more than double what they have been this year. I used my Lake 12 g. Br. Gds. exclusively this year and shade taken as a whole – better shooting than ever before



Ornithological & Sporting JOURNAL

of

William Brewster.

January 1st, 1876.

Feb. 17 - Went up to Prof. Barrelli's Palace this evening at Genoa to see the Aurora Borealis. There only
[illegible] of the [illegible] shooting up my head toward the zenith, each [illegible]

Nycticorax var Gardeni – wintered in numbers

Feb. – 1876

1876
Feb. 15

The winter now nearly past has been a remarkably mild one and birds of all kinds have been so scarce that I have devoted my entire attention to house work and have not killed a specimen since Dec. With the exception of three days of very good – though albeit rather thin – sleighing the ground has been entirely bare most of the time. The only irregular Northern bird visitors that I have noticed are the grosbeaks (P. enucleator) which although not so abundant as last season have still been present in considerable numbers. Three or four days back I saw a flock of 8 in our cedar tree; a few adult red s's have been secured but not so many nearly, as last winter. Aegiothus linaria was seen & shot (Arthur Smith) in Nov. or Dec. but has not been reported on any good authority since. The ordinary winter residents are here in generally small numbers, as for instance Corvus of which I have seen a few only at wide intervals. Have not heard of the occurence of Carpodacus which must be regarded of somewhat irregular presence in winter severity of weather having apparently but little to do with the matter. But the most remarkable fact of all remains to be mentioned. The following tells its own story. I will simply add that the herons have a regular roost on Prof. Lowells place. They are also reported by J. N. Clark as wintering at Bay Brook in numbers & a flock was also seen at West Newton Mass. Dec. 31-75 by Messrs. Warren et Eager

(Feb. 17 – Went up to Prof. Lowells place this evening at sunset to see the night herons. There only came out of the pine and flew directly over my head toward the sun, each uttering its hoarse quark as it left its roosting place. The night was a most worst & uninteresting one to me, the coming very cold & with a blustering N.W. wind, so I reached the spot a little late others may have left before my arrival)

To the Editors of the Boston Daily Advertiser:–

Among the phenomena of this remarkably mild winter there is one which seems well worth recording, since it is, so far as my own observation goes, without precedent. A number of night-herons (*ardea nycticorax*) have not yet migrated to the southward. According to Nuttall, a very careful observer, these birds generally leave us about the middle or toward the end of October. This accords with my own experience, though I have once seen them so late as the 15th November. What makes the fact of their stay more surprising is that the coldest weather of the winter came in November, and that Charles River (their feeding-ground) has been twice, and in our neighborhood four times, wholly closed with ice. It should seem from this that these birds are not without some skill in meteorological prognostication. I have seen them every evening up to the 12th February. The largest number I have counted is eight, though there are no doubt more. J. R. L.

Cambridge, 12th Feb., 1876.

Rare Anatidae of Mass. and

1876.

Feb. 24 The weather for the last few days has been cold and wintrish; no bird notes excepting the occurence of Mergulus alle at Lexington Mass. where one was picked up in an exhausted state by a farmer, on the 21st inst. Had a very interesting talk, to day with Mr. Joyce of Plymouth on the occurence of different species of Anatidae in N. E. Mr. Joyce being an old duck shooter, an intelligent person and withal quite well acquainted with birds, and moreover having spent most of his shooting experience in Plymouth Co. the ~~best~~ par excellence - for the Mass. duck shooting, his ~~opinions~~ cannot but be considered as both reliable and valuable. For convenience I shall arrange his statements in regular order, in the question & answer form.

Ques. 1 Have you ever seen the wild swan (either species) in N. E. Ans. "Never but once when I saw two at Newport Vt. on Lake Memp. This was in Oct. 1860."

Ques. 2. Have you ever seen or heard of any geese except. B. Canadensis, Ans. "No, & I am very sure that none others can occur."

Ques. 3. How often do you hear of the capture of the mallard (A. boschas) in Plymouth Co. Ans. They occur but rarely now; perhaps half a dozen are taken by myself & friends every season and most of them are usually killed in Sept. Twenty years ago they used to be common nearly as much so in fact as A. obscura but since that time they have been gradually dying out here.

Ques. 3. Do you often get the shoveller or the pintail. Ans. "Yes, both; they are neither of them very uncommon but yet their numbers bear no proportion to those of many other species"

Ques. 4. How about the gadwal. Ans. "I have

1876.

shot one or two" (on cross examination Mr. J. appeared a little mixed on this species and was not so certain that he had ever seen it; the "gray duck" of Mass. gunners is emphatically & always the pin tail)

Ques. 5. Have you ever seen the ring neck duck. Ans. "Yes, but it is very rare. I shot a fine male in the spring of 1872 and this specimen is the only one that I can ~~X~~ think of at present".

Ques. 6. Do the canvas back and red head ever occur. Ans. "the former is taken occasionally in the bay: the latter has never come under my notice"

Ques. 7. Did you ever see the harlequin duck. Ans. "Yes: three years ago my dog (a trained "toler") drew in a flock of about twenty. It was Sunday and I had no gun but they came in within a few rods and I had a good view of them: among the number were several very fine males (here he gave an accurate description of the adult ♂ plumage) and I think I could not have been mistaken"

Ques. 8. Does the little auk occur except irregularly & at long intervals. Ans. "Yes, they are common out in the bay every winter and more or less of them are killed by the fishermen at that season"

Mr. Goodale has five very fine ♂ Bucephala Islandica. They were sent down in the flesh from Maine. Chas. G. Bowster has a Syrnium cinereum shot in N.Y. state three or four miles only from the Mass. line. It was killed in Jan. of the present year.

Arrival Turdus migratorius on

1876.

March 3 Mr. Abbott Frazar informs me that pine grosbeaks are still quite numerous in his wood on to day. He shot a single T. migratorius Feb. 28 the first one reported. No cedar birds have as yet appeared. He has seen Collurio borealis at frequent intervals during the winter and killed a very fine one yesterday.

" 7 Clear and very warm, with S. wind. Thr. 70° at 3 P.M. (Yesterday nearly as warm; max. temperature 68°)
Arrivals this morning were Sialia sialis, very generally abundant & scattered over the country.
Agelaius phoeniceus, gen. arrival; Quis. purpureus flock of about 15 mig. northward; Scol. ferrugineus one small flock. Melos. melodia gen. arrival
Rose early and taking my gun set out immediately after breakfast. Taking the horse cars ~~to~~ far as Mt. Auburn I struck over into the Coolidge farm. The morning was lovely, a balmy S. wind prevailing ~~which~~ and seeming to whisper in every sunny nook and corner awake! awake! O slain of winter, for I have ~~vanquished~~ Boreas and peaceful spring is at hand. At any rate if it did not distinctly say this the assurance was none the less manifested and the dry leaves fairly rustled with the myriads of crawling forms that passed over and through them; black little Coleoptera, ~~shiny~~ winged Diptera ~~and~~ of many species and aspects came gladly out to breathe the air and enjoy the light of Heaven once more. Overhead was no less an awakening. The sky seemed full of bird voices: first I caught the distant, plaintive note of a bluebird but after one or two scarcely heard repetitions it faded away leaving me uncertain whether to

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

1876.

(March 7) consider my imagination deceived or not; but in a moment or two another came towards me tracing his course through the heavens by frequent callings and when directly overhead as if for my especial benefit, broke out into his rich "amorous" warble: this time there was no mistake and before I had proceeded ~~a mile~~ a mile I had heard & seen dozens, all males so far as I could ascertain: As a rule they did not sing much and seldom alighted but seemed to be wandering about in upper air ~~as~~ uncertain of ~~their~~ whereabouts or purpose. Next I was rather surprised (for is not the sudden advent of spring birds after the dreary, lifeless winter always a surprise, however probable ~~that~~ appearance may be made by long kept ~~tables~~ tables of dates of arrival, and ~~seasonal~~ accompanying seasonal phenomena) at the sudden appearance of a small band of Agelaius phoeniceus, all males: they passed directly overhead uttering a call note or two and after an investigating wheel or two swept off Northwards; a few minutes after, a larger flock of some 50 individuals followed ~~in their~~ track. From an oak grove in the distance came up faintly but distinctly the incessant gabble of Scol. ferruginous: whether one or more individuals were producing it I was unable to ascertain as it soon ceased, & I did not see the performers at all. Every thicket & brushy water course was alive with song sparrows, and the males were chanting delightfully on all sides or chasing each other in sport or rivalry. Mr. A. Fragar whom I saw at his house, informed

Passerella iliaca - large flocks - Newton - Warren

1876.

(March 7) that he saw numbers of red wings and one very large flock of P. nivalis. purpureus this morning. He has been out regularly every day of late but has seen no spring birds before this morning. My own watch has been so carelessly kept that I should have hesitated to believe the previous arrivals really the first: so sudden an appearance en masse of our first installment of spring visitors is not less unusual than pleasant: oftener, they appear at first in small numbers straggling along as if half afraid to announce their presence: so emphatic an assurance of bird faith ~~is at least~~ in better times to come, cannot but be cheering to short sighted mortals hoping for an early spring. An unwonted aspect of activity was everywhere manifest this morning among our winter sojourners. The little titmice were drawling out their plaintive dirrrr on all sides & two Certhias were almost constantly bursting into suppressed song as if unable to quite restrain their feelings & yet perfectly conscious that such outbursts of ~~social~~ feeling should be reserved for listening mates and Northern forests. A single Pinicola ~~which~~ haunted me the whole morning seemed perfectly frantic with anxiety, flying restlessly about and almost ~~shrieking~~ out its notes! I imitated its call once or twice and it came straight to me calling out in joyous tones, and seeming more distressed than ever when it discovered the deception: it had probably been left behind by its companions & was searching for them. Heard a Colaptes ~~the~~ utering its long laughing calls: I do not think however that any Southern birds of this latter species have yet arrived. Reached the house by noon with only an bird a Certhia

Surplus mis-entries [illegible]

Nyctale Acadica - one Watertown (Feb. 26)

March 8 1876

1876.

March 8 Cloudy & warm with occasional showers from the S.W. There was a general arrival of Robins yesterday and to day; this evening I saw a single bird flying across our place lighting on the tops of the tallest trees as they are wont to do when first they return to their summer home. A Nyctale Acadica was shot Feb. 25 - near the Arsenal in Watertown by Mr. Patten of that town.

" 11 Cloudy and chilly with N. wind. Off after breakfast driving up to Lincoln with Abbott Frazar, ~~driving~~ F's teams at a Farmers barn we struck into an immense pine swamp where F. found a nest of Bubo Vir. last year, or rather a single young bird able to fly ~~to~~ short distance ~~that~~ he was easily caught. The nest had been in a pine but this winter it entirely disappeared having been probably blown down by the wind. It was first discovered in 1873 by Mr. Dwight Whiting who took from it a set of eggs of Buteo borealis by which bird it was undoubtedly originated. The next season the same gentleman visited it again & found it tenanted by the owls who had hatched out two young one of which was taken and last season as just related the ~~[illegible]~~ owls again nested there. The nest was described to me by F. as nearly 4 ft in external diameter. The tree which I examined was a white pine of about two feet diameter at base growing upon the extreme edge of the ~~swamp~~ pine growth and overlooking a stretch of swampy maple and ash timber. The nest had been

Arrivals - Sayornis fuscus - on - Lincoln
Nesting of Bubo Virginianus -
March 11 - 1876

(March 11) situated in the very top of the tree at a height probably of 35 ft. Mr. F. went through these woods somewhat hurriedly early the present week but could not discover the probable this years nest though he did start the male bird which was too shy to be shot. We hunted through the whole place very carefully but did not succeed in finding either nest or birds. We started at least a dozen different grouse. Returning to the team we drove over to Shade St. bog, where we hunted again for a nest as the owls used to haunt there but without finding any signs of them. Drove home by way of the willows where F. saw four Anas obscura on the 9th. I shot a single Sayornis fuscus and saw large flocks of Poecilla ilaica: the latter were however seen in numbers at Newton on the 7th.

March 14 Was in town to day & dropping into Goodale's got the following notes. Two woodcock were flushed in Melrose, March 12 by Chas. Keith an experienced and trustworthy gunner. Goodale informs me that he stuffed a cock Dec. 26 1875 which was killed in Waltham the day previous. He has a fine female Circus Hud. killed at Melrose Mch. 7 — and I bought an adult male of Mr. Joyce, which he killed at Acton Mass. March 11th. H. B. Bailey had a ♀ Dendroica caerulescens sent him to day from Conn. labelled as follows "Eastford Conn. June 6 - 1874 ♀ taken with nest and 4 eggs" I examined the bird & one of the eggs which was enclosed with the skin

Note In the stomach of the Circus I found remains of a Perisoreus bicolor, bill feet wings etc.

Turdus migratorius - Flock of 50 Sialia sialis
Molothrus pecoris - one Brookline - J. Murdock
Perisoreus Canadensis from Me - dissection etc.

— March 18 — 1876 —

1876.

March 18 Clear & cold with high wind. About three inches of snow fell yesterday and the general aspect of affairs this morning is as wintrish as possible. Took the horse cars for Watertown in the morning and tramped over my usual route. Saw nothing of much interest. Robins were collected together in the woods near the arsenal in extraordinary numbers but seemed to be the regular winter birds; they have not attacked the asparagus berries at all as yet. Some of the males sang very finely indeed on one or two that I heard pouring out their notes with the freedom of May rather than March but still I think that all these birds belong farther N. and that our local birds have yet to put in their appearance. A few blue birds were seen this morning and Mr. W. W. Patten whom I met out collecting ~~[illegible]~~ told me that he saw on the 17th inst. a flock of at least 50 individuals collected together and feeding on cedar berries. Crows were very abundant and noisy this morning. Some sparrows were about the only birds that I heard singing. No cedar birds have appeared yet though many are anxiously watching for their arrival. Recd. two Perisoreus Canadensis & a ♀ Picoides Arcticus from Mr. Mc. Leod. One of the jays was a ♂ with testes perhaps 1/2 developed; the sex of the other I found impossible to ascertain though the birds were neither mangled nor bloody. This development is not what I had expected in birds reputed to breed so early.

A single Molothrus pecoris shot in Brookline by J. Murdock

Ampelis cedrorum — Waltham — Crows Am. migrating — Flocking habits of Sicks.

— March 22 — 1876 —

March 22 Clear and cold with very high N.W. wind. In P.M. drove up to Maynards taking my gun in the buggy. In the Winchester place I spied two crows sitting in a willow tree and firing a very long shot at one of them from the buggy it fell dead after flying some twenty or thirty rods; its companion or mate which had flown on ahead returned and hovered over it until driven off, keeping up a great outcry. In Waltham I killed another crow one of a large flock that was feeding in a field near the road and here again the whole flock hovered over the prostrate bird, bawling themselves nearly hoarse and sweeping down at intervals acting in fact almost precisely like terns under similar circumstances. All these crows were I think migrants from the S. as I saw large loose flocks all day winging their way Northward against the high wind. Saw also in Waltham an immense flock of Aeg. Phoeniceus, at least two hundred. They lit in a huge oak fairly blackening it with their sable numbers and uttering their varied notes in the usual jingling discordant strain. Abbott Frazar shot three cedar birds from a flock of fifteen in Watertown this afternoon, this is their first appearance — very late. He also saw a flock of about thirty blue birds feeding on cedar berries. The snow was all carried off by yesterday heavy rain storm, but there is much frost left in the ground still.

1876.

March 23 Clear and a fine day with bracing N.W. wind. Rose early and drove over to take the 8.10 train for Concord on the Lowell road but after putting up my horse in a livery stable found upon going to the station that all travel was suspended beyond Lexington by reason of a bad "wash" in the road bed. Getting my horse I rode about the country till 11 A.M. when I took the up train on the F.B.B. Arriving at Concord I saw across Charlie Richardson and prevailed on him to take a trip down river in his "birch" with me. We had a very pleasant paddle, going down some three miles, but saw very little to shoot at, killing only a musk rat and a meadow mouse (A. ripania) The latter—like the former—was drowned out by the rise of the waters and was sitting on some floating debris among the bushes. Saw four duck, two Black (A. obscura) and two small fowl that I took to be Lophodytes cucullatus but am not quite certain. I saw a single Colluric, a very fine adult Buteo lineatus and a few Scolecophagus. Took the 5 P.M. train on the Lowell R.R. home, the passage through having been completed since morning. Getting off at Arlington St. I walked across country home. As I passed the lower swamps the sun was just setting and I paused a moment to listen to the birds. Out over the flooded meadows red wings perched on isolated bushes were rolling out their rich guttural notes

Song of Spizella monticola

1876.

(March 23) and the monotonous jingling discord of the rusties came up from the brushy thickets. Song sparrows were singing on all sides and their migration is now probably at its height. At least 100 tree sparrows were scattered along the edges of the meadow and the males were singing with full blast. Their song is remarkably like that of the canary but shorter and though not so strong and rich, surpassing it in wild singing unaffected sweetness. I think I have never heard it to so good advantage before and believe that I have never properly appreciated it. It cannot however at its best be compared with the superb song of Pas. iliaca. The tree sparrows are starting N. as the above mentioned flock was larger than any that has spent the winter with us.

March 24 Clear and a most lovely day. Got off directly after breakfast and took a tramp over the farm, returning home by way of Fresh p. Saw finches in abundance and heard their peculiar spring notes every where. I say spring notes because they seem to be altogether peculiar to the early spring before their departure for the N. The only song used by them in summer is a simple and decidedly unmusical trill but just at this season they are all wonderfully busy practising up a performance which apparently never comes to anything when attempted. To day after hearing them all the morning I found a large flock in our apple orchard on my return at noon, every male of which was apparently giving his entire

1876.

(March 24) attention to this matter and it is a pity that ~~the~~ effort is always abandoned in the end for so far as it goes it is a very pretty little performance. The usual trill is given then some round liquid little notes, then a barely attempted snatch of singing melody broken off suddenly by the monotonous trill again. The effect of all this is to impress one with the idea of immense ability of some excellence of which this is the first budding. Some of the fragmentary notes are of exceeding sweetness and occasionally a performer will burst out in an impassioned rapid gush of melody as if he had just found the key to that which he had been seeking & then as if ashamed of his impulsiveness will break off suddenly in the best of it and return to the conventional trill again. This is to me one of the strangest of Natures freaks and either suggests, in the case of Junco, descent from some more musical ancestor or promise of better things in the future; the former hypothesis I prefer: it is as if the bird were trying to recollect some roundfully sweet melody: ~~a~~ trying it again and again it nearly catches the clue ~~but~~ times, but failing to ~~gitt~~ accomplish this the mating season comes and it ~~will not~~ returns to the only ~~song it~~ it feels sure of. What a pity it could not commence practice sooner: perhaps then it would be ready with its performance in time and would astonish us all with notes excelling even the hermit thrush or the fox sparrow. Saw large numbers of robins, a few blackbirds & some fox sparrows. Passer atricapillus still in flocks: Juncos migrating. Saw five Certhias & one of them entered a shed on one place and crept up

one of the posts in search of insects. I also saw the same bird light among the tops of a tree with a little bunch of twigs in its bill & proceed down & upon for support & then with the body perpendicular the tail spread & partly as when ascending a tree trunk. I think the bird was in fact on a kind of a perch & its crossways or a kind

278 Snow flake catching by cedar birds - association with Sialia.
MASS. (Middlesex Co.) Absence of Regulus satrapa
Plectrophanes nivalis
Pl (Pinicola enucleator last seen Water. Mch. 20 A. Frazar)

1876.

March 25 Cloudy; ther about 32°; commenced snowing at 8 A.M. and snowed hard all day most of it melting as it came. The prevailing feature of this winter has been the frequent light snow storms. We have had some 40 - I believe it is stated - and scarcely any of them have remained on the ground more than a few days. Went up on the 7.35 car this morning and calling for Frazar we started out on the farm. Had not gone far when we caught sight of a large flock of Ampelis cedrorum at least 100 in all, just lighting in a poplar tree and starting after we chased them about for some time F. getting 8 and I 16 specimens. Of my specimens 7 had ~~they~~ waxen appendages on the wings & an eighth had one spot on one wing. Of these ~~8~~ 7, 4 were ♂'s. Of the remaining 9 unadorned birds 3 were ♂'s. Of Frazar's eight one bird possessed the appendages. While we were following them about it was snowing fast and several members of the flock were always launching out into the air after the snow flakes catching them as they do flies etc. in summer. They were first seen by F. on the 22nd; on the 24 he saw about 30. Song Sparrows were singing persistently ~~the~~ in spite of the snow storm this morning. Saw a few scattering blue birds; F. informs me that last spring he saw them frequently mixed in with large flocks of cedar birds, flying & feeding with them. Notably absent is Regulus satrapa; I have neither seen nor heard of any since some time early in Jany. whether their withdrawal is from this vicinity alone or E. Mass. generally I cannot now say. Saw a single P. nivalis flying over the farm.

Saw a few small flocks of Chry. tristis & have seen more or less of them every day of late; also saw or heard of them at frequent intervals through the winter. Abbott Frazar saw a flock of Pinicola enucleator in Watertown Mch. 20. There were about 15 individuals, and the flock was flying overhead in a N. direction

Sturnella magna - two Nutatani [illegible]
Molothrus pecoris - two Watrs.

1876.
Sunday
March 26 Clear, warm and a lovely day. While taking a walk ~~this~~ the afternoon heard a robin singing gloriously from the top of a tall oak in Mr. Dunbar's place on Highland St. Cambridge.

Monday
March 27 Cloudy with driving W. wind and a chilly air. Went over to Beacon park in P.M. to see Capt. Bogardus shoot and while there saw a flock of Eremophila cornuta fly over in a N. direction: probably they have begun to migrate. Abbott Frazer saw two M. pecoris in Watertown this morning & also two Sturnella magna, probably birds from the S. though some have been seen in the winter above Watertown by W. W. Patten. One of the two seen this morning was in the old haunt below Belmont, the other in Alvin Adams' field Watertown.

Tuesday
March 28 Clear and a fine day with crisp W. wind. Took the 7.40 Watrs. car up to Frazar's where I found ready as per appointment, and we soon started off in his wagon for Deadham, where he was going on some errand for his brother. On the way over got several long shots at crows but all were ineffectual. After passing through the town of Deadham we drove some two miles further and entering a wood path penetrated a grove of noble pines where we tied the horse and proceeded on foot to a hut which

Mating of Buteo lineatus - unusual notes
Unknown voice

1876.
(March 28) George Frazer & Morrison occupied last season. After investigating the domestic arrangements of the absent proprietors to our complete satisfaction we sat dinner in a sunny spot near the hut and while so engaged I was much surprised to hear my unknown fall voice from a swamp near at hand and uttered by at least two different individuals and so distinctly that I was sure of the identity of the unknown author. I believe I noted this same voice on one or two occasions last year in April. There we also heard a pair of Buteo lineatus making a great outcry. They commenced with the usual gueo then one sang this note though a series of variations some of which were short hoarse screams and others choking cries almost like the stifled utterances of a child undergoing strangulation, while the other bird kept up the usual screaming. These cries were some of them perfectly diabolical. The birds were either fighting or mating presumably the latter, though the density of the intervening pines prevented us from getting sight of their evolutions for the sound plainly indicated that they were on wing at the time. Going to the place in hopes of getting a shot I found what I am very sure was their nest in process of construction. It was placed in a large pine some 40 ft. up and had a very fresh look. Under the tree were a good many

(March 28.) flocks which the birds had dropped. Among the pines I noticed a little flock of Regulus satrapa, the males singing at frequent intervals exactly as in Me. This song is rather pretty, and commences like D. tigrina's and like H. ruficapilla's. Starting homward we reached Watertown late in the afternoon. On the road back I shot from Dalias and Frazer a crow. We also saw four Branta Canadensis flying in single file toward the N. The leading bird was noticeably much larger than the following ones of which the last was the smallest

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Wednesday March 29 Clear and warm. Thm. 60° max. temp. Spent the day in town but made two observations worth recording before going in; one, a purple finch in full song in Mr. Choate's Garden the other, a large flock of Branta Canadensis which attracted my attention by their gabbling as they drifted high overhead before a strong S. wind. Both yesterday and to day a large flock of blackbirds (Q. purpureus & Agelaius) have haunted our field spending most of their time on the ground but occasionally mounting to the tree tops and setting up this discordant chorus.

Passer domesticus is everywhere engaged in nest building and the males are now if possible more noisy and offensively disagreeable than usual.

Ecmophila cooperi

Ipswich - March 30 - 1876

Thursday March 30 Morning clear. Cloudy in P.M. with very heavy snow squalls and high wind. Took the 8.30 A.M. train for Ipswich with Stone and arriving there took a dory of Wm Stone and started down river. Reached the sand hills in a very short time as both wind & tide were fair, and landing searched carefully for P. Princeps but without success. Then pulled back to Great neck where we landed and walked over to Eagle hill a distance of about two miles, but no sooner had we got there than it commenced to snow heavily so we were glad to seek shelter in the gunning house of W. L. Stone who received us kindly. After the squall had passed we walked back to our boat and started for town against wind & tide. When about half the distance was accomplished it commenced snowing exceedingly fast and we finally reached town wet & miserable without having either of us killed a single bird of any description. We saw in all perhaps a dozen Ecmophila alpestris but no snow bunting. The shore larks were reported as very plenty the first of the week & it is probable that the bulk of them have left for the North.

Friday March 31 Clear and cool with high wind. Went up on the farm in A.M. & shot 9 cedar birds: 6 were very tipped & 3 of them ♂♂. The 3 plain birds were all ♀. Saw four or five small flocks but all were rather shy. Heard a Carpodacus singing & saw a flock of big Chry. tristis all in winter pl. Saw two Antiopa butterflies for the first time

1876.
Saturday
April 1 Clear with high W. wind. Off after breakfast starting out in my buggy for a try at hawks etc. Near Fresh p. saw a crow coming very high up and getting out the gun shot at him as he was directly overhead and dropping him into the road. Next drove up over the hill, stopping to let my quail loose at the spot where I shot her last fall. The male died about a week back & the ♀ was getting so thin that I feared she would shan the same fate unless released. The wings healed up within two weeks of their capture so that they could fly but subsequent futile flutterings about the box in which they were confined opened the wounds afresh and so inflamed the members that they lost the power of flight & wasted away under the influence of the constantly festering wounds. Driving through Prospect St. I shot into a flock of cedar birds killing two plain birds; one of them was however interesting from the fact that the yellow tipping of the tail feathers was entirely gone — I saw gone because the frayed ends of the feathers showed the action of excessive wear. Here I heard the first Hylodes of the season piping cheerily. Driving up through the willows I came home by way of the Warren place, Waltham, firing at a crow which sat over the road within good range & which I unaccountably missed or only succeeded in wounding. Saw a few fox sparrows. A snipe was started by Danielson on the E. edge of the lower E. Brickyard swamp. The frost is all out & the fields getting green in sunny exposures

Histrionicus torquatus
Scops Asio - breeding in Cambridge

1816.
Sunday
April 2 Clear, warm & still, a lovely April day. Rose early and took a walk up to Fresh Pond before breakfast but saw nothing worthy of note. Yesterday I received a magnificent adult ♂ Histrionicus torquatus through the kindness of Mr. John Taylor of the Steamer New Brunswick. He purchased the bird from one Cornell a taxidermist at St. Johns N. B. who in his turn bought it of a gunner. It was shot in the Bay of Fundy not far from the city. This forenoon I skinned & mounted it as it was very far gone having been shot nearly a week. The flesh was dark like a coots. The neck turned over the head though with some difficulty; the sexual organs were not much developed. This evening the robins were singing gloriously from the tree tops in our neighborhood, the first general chorus I have heard from them this season. Birds have come very slowly during the past two weeks as the weather has been for the most part windy and chilly. Mr. Woodward a student and a member of the N.O.C. informed us last evening that he had several times lately seen a pair of Scops Asio in an elm tree on Linnaean St. Cambridge opposite the Botanic garden, and upon watching them he found that they lived in an old flickers hole in a rotten limb: they have been seen by him a number of times at or a little after sunset & will probably breed in this tree. This occurrence in so thickly settled a locality is most interesting.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Song of Passerella iliaca
Habits of Ampelis cedrorum

1876.
Monday
April 3

Cloudy with chill E. wind. Got off rather late this morning taking a turn up over the Coolidge farm. Found cedar birds very numerous, as much so I think as they used to be in the good old time. Shot sixteen only four of which were not tipped. Of the rest were ♂s. Of the remaining were ♂s. Shot also a ♂ Sialia. Saw a large flock of fox sparrows and listened a long time to the glorious melody of the males some of which were performing almost incessantly though it was nearly noon. I saw no reason to change my previous high opinion of the merits of this bird as a songster & would place no bird above it that I have ever heard, though the hermit thrush is certainly not a whit inferior. The conspicuous elements of the fox sparrow song are wildness and a superlative richness of compass, while there is enough continuity to fully satisfy the ear. A few other birds equal it perhaps in the first two particulars, but none of them can be credited with an equal amount of power & length of utterance. The chief charm of the hermits song is its exquisite serenity & purity but while in these it far surpasses the fox sparrow, it falls below it in boldness of execution. The two songs are so unlike that it is perhaps unwise to compare them at all: each an masterpiece of their way. Finches are migrating now in full blast. Saw a single Molothrus ater. The cedar birds have commenced to attack the asparagus

Perhaps but I did feel more on the impulse persist. It is a fact I regret to see the birds coming up the tree pour always in the air preserving the Coolidge farm. Besides as I said the other day the Chickadees are beginning to sing & the Nuthatch to sing & monotonously. Advancing close thereby affording a frequent opportunity to hear the Nuthatch & Chickadee contrast as certain as this cold rain & sleet will drive them to the woods.

Beautiful snow scene.

1876
Wednesday
April 5. Yesterday it stormed hard all day, commencing with rain & ending up with snow which continued falling through the night, ~~and~~ until at daybreak this morning the ground was covered to the depth of a foot on the level & badly drifted in places; altogether by far the heaviest storm that we have had this year. Started off immediately after breakfast walking up to the Coolidge farm. Striking into the pine woods along the Mt. Auburn fence I found the trees fairly laden down with the moist snow which had clung to every twig. The apple orchard adjoining was as thick and shaded as when in full summer foliage, but the most beautiful sight of all awaited me at the cedar ridge behind French's. Here the trees bent in many cases nearly to the ground by the weight of the snow, formed arches and arrayed bowers beautiful beyond description. The cart path through this grove was fairly roofed over by cedars and yellow pines the tips of some trees thirty feet high fairly touching the ground. Walking beneath these the beauty of this pure immaculate feathery foliage was most exquisite, and a little later when the snow had begun to drop off in places the bright green of the yellow pine needles shone out in ~~fine~~ contrast to heavy masses of spotless snow. While my eye was taking in all these delights my ears were not less pleased, for the cedars were fairly alive with fox sparrows and I believe that more before in any whole field

Song of Passerella iliaca
Immense flight of Juncos

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1876.

(April 5) afternoon have I enjoyed such a surfeit of glorious music. Nearly every tree indeed had its songster all invisible and adding fairy like music to an enchanted scene. Some of these performers excelled any that I have ever heard before one in especial bringing out his superb melody in perfectly moulded bars of rich, liquid, delicious sound, and ~~with~~ the same leisurely manner as the hermit thrush. In commencing he invariably hesitated just a thought after the first note. This bird really seemed to unite the best characteristic of the fox sparrow song with those of the thrush's and long after I had with reluctance left the neighborhood of his presence I could still catch parts of his song and distinguish them from those of his companions. What would I not have given to have captured that bird that I might always enjoy his music, but perhaps it were better not; the beauty of the surrounding scenes might have lost a little and after efforts "in a gilded cage" have proved a disappointment.

The whole country was literally flooded with Juncos this morning. I never saw anything like the numbers; four or five thousand would be a low estimate, for not a tree bush or thicket but was filled with them. Fox sparrows were also in great abundance even through the city gardens. The Juncos have already given up

MASS. (Middlesex Co.).

1876.

Nyctiardia Gardeni

Turdus migratorius flocking

(April 5) practising and have settled down on the summer trill. Saw large flocks of blackbirds all three species. Shot 4 Ampelis, a bluebird and a Turdus mig. The bluebird had a number of yellowish tumors growing all on the upper mandible and one on each eyelid of either eye. These had in some places quite eaten away the horny covering of the bill. The bird was in otherwise good condition and had the testicles highly enlarged. The robins were collected in flocks of 100 or more as when they first appeared a month since. Perhaps those that first came were our local birds after all. Near the Mt. Auburn fence I started a night heron from a snow laden apple tree and when I came back that way later it flew out again from a pine near the same place & I fired a long shot at it without success. It was in brown plumage. Saw several Certhias and a few tree sparrows but the latter are unusually scarce this spring. By noon the snow had melted off all the trees and the scene was entirely changed. Even the birds seemed to have disappeared as I saw not half so many on my walk back, though even at that time a few fox sparrows were still singing

Apr. 6 Porcetes graminens - Hir. bicolor - on each Newton & J. M.
" 7 Pas Savanna on Waltham, H. bicolor & a. Belmont
" " Pandion Carolin & Belmont (Frazer) Ac. fuscus 2 " (R. D.)
" " Pas. iliaca, still abdant.

1876.

Apr. 6 Porcetes graminens, a single bird, was seen at Newton to day by E. J. Maynard; also at same place one Hirundo bicolor (the latter shot) Saw a second Sayornis this P.M. at Waltham

Apr. 7 Clear with high wind. Took a drive with Frazer in P.M. Saw immense number of Pas. iliaca everywhere; they were mostly in the orchards and many of the males were singing gloriously. On the way home heard a Pas. Savanna singing at dusk in Waltham. Saw a flock of about 30 Hirundo bicolor flying about over Rock meadow in Waltham

" 8 Clear with high wind. R. Dean was out in Belmont in P.M. with Mr. Pullen to try a dog. They got up five woodcock in the Cotton Farm. He saw two Accipiter fuscus. Frazer saw two Pandion Carolinensis also in Belmont. C. Hart Merriam arrived this evening and will spend Sunday with me. He leaves for Eastport Me. on Monday with myself and Stone. He informs me that Lou. albicollis wintered in hundreds at New Haven Conn. in winter of 1874-5. They came within the city and he shot them from his windows. He has not seen any at all the present (past) winter. The fields are now about half bare and some immense drifts still remain to remind us of the late fierce storm

Trip from Boston to Portland by steamboat. Somateria mollissima-borealis Hutchinsii.

1876.

Apr. 10 Clear and a fine day with rather high N.W. wind. Left Boston on the steamer New Brunswick at 8 A.M. taking passage for St. John N.B. We passed a very pleasant day, Merriam, Wilson (from Chicago) Stone & myself making up the party. Capt. Winchester, Mr. Graham (clerk) and J. Taylor engineer made us very comfortable and afforded us every opportunity for having a pleasant time. We began to see ducks shortly after leaving Boston harbor. At Thatcher island saw the first old squaws, at Boone is. the first eiders and indeed the first I ever saw alive. Seven of them, three males and four females passed quite near the boat, the colouring of the drakes being especially distinctive & easily recognized. ~~Flocked~~ Away outside but few birds were seen, an occasional L. argentatus, or a duck scurrying swiftly along close to the water being the only ones noted. I saw a very large black fish off Chelsea beach a higher lazy fellow rolling up out of water heavily and spouting to the height of six or eight feet. As we rounded Cape Elizabeth coming into Portland harbor I saw my first Larus glaucus adult in the immature plumage ~~which has~~ known as L. Hutchinsii. I also thought I saw a black guillemot flying at a distance but may have been mistaken. Left Portland at 7 P.M. with Mr. Andrew Taylor added to our pleasant circle. Saw some fine phosphorescence in the evening

1876.
Apr. 11 Clear with high wind veering from N.E. to N.W. After a comfortable night's sleep woke to find the boat running by Mt. Desert. From here the coast lay very near the shore giving us a good chance to see the glorious scenery. The coast line in every where indented by bays & inlets of greater or less depth and was every where extremely picturesque. The land adjoining the coast is entirely unsettled in most places, the arborescent vegetation being compound almost entirely of coniferae, principally spruces. Some isolated rocks rose out of the water in the form of cones or pillars, curiously ~~[illegible]~~ fluted by the action of the water. Machias Bay was soon after passed, and Mr. Taylor called my attention to "Fishermans Island at the E. end of the bay which he said was a great place for duck. We passed Grand Manan at about 10 and arrived in East port at noon. It is a small place, a fishing village built on a hill and reminding one somewhat of Nantucket. Here Merriam & Wilson left us. Among the wharves almost was a flock of some thirty large gulls about three quarters of them L. agentatus the remainder about equally L. glaucus et L. leucopterus. Some of the latter were perfect beauties, snow white and one or two came within good range. ~~[illegible]~~ These gulls followed the boat all the way from Mt Desert to Campo Bello is. When there came at times very near us & I identified them

Larus leucopterus – L. glaucus, Pas. Principes
Pas. ideca, Pas. Savanna, Brecht. Islandica.

1876. (April 11)

Arrival at Cape Lepreaux Apr. 11

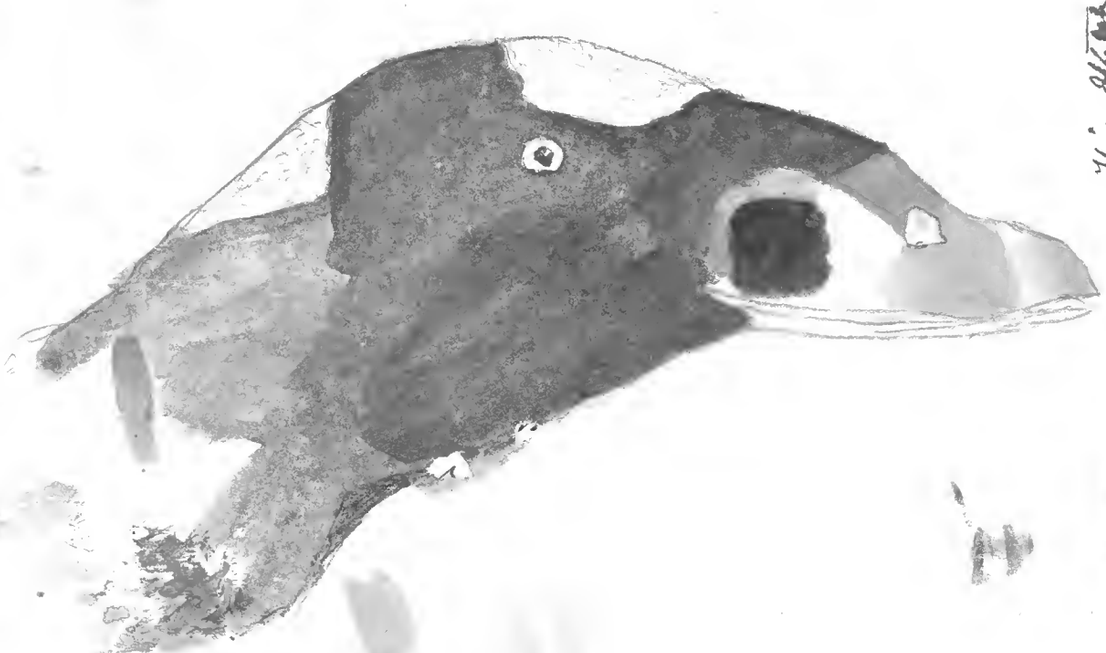
to my complete satisfaction as L. argentatus L. Glaucus & L. leucopterus. They kept steadily along in the wake of the steamer and we amused ourselves by tossing our pieces of fish etc. which they picked up with great willingness when they had drifted under their line of vision. I could not detect much difference in their actions, though I fancied that both the white birds, L. leucopterus especially, were lighter & more graceful of motion than the L. argentatus. The difference in size between them respectively was not marked at any distance but when they came up near it was apparent. Nearing Eastport at 2 P.M. we arrived at Cape Lepreaux at about 4 and were kindly put on shore by the Capt in the steamers life boat. Scarcely had we landed when a sparrow flew by me and I recognized P. principes. Unpacking our guns we went in search of it & Stone was so lucky as to secure it. Rather to my surprise found Pas. ideca & Mel. melodia in numbers around the house of Mr. Thomas the light keeper when we arr to stop, and Stone killed a Pas. Savanna. After supper crept down to two of old squaws that were feeding near the ledge and shot down both killing one dead but "Shot" not understanding the business it drifted off. The wind from the bluff is very fine & the prospect of shooting good as ducks are lying all along near the ledges. I forgot to note two adult ♂ Buckeye. Islandica at Eastport.

Stormy out doors about 16 this evening found the wind rather colder & lively & the gulls were making a great racket out on the water calling lively & vociferously.

Point Lepreaux N. B.

Junco hyemalis, Plec. nivalis, Eremophila cornuta
Tringa maritima

1876.
Apr. 12 Clear with rather fresh N. wind. Rose early and took a short walk before breakfast. Saw Junco hyemalis, a few; Plec. nivalis (one flying) and Eremophila cornuta, several [illegible] not



This sketch was made by Dr. Thomas, of Mrs. Stone's Oct. Hunting, & was kindly given to me by Dr. Thomas. W. H. Blakeman

not seen I young rocks was as first th of in length disappe

[illegible] killed 15, all we cared for. The scattered bunches on the rocks around collected all together frightened at the reports, making a flock of at least 300. This flight is excessively rapid and very like that of Col. arenicola. The only note I heard from them while flying was a short quet, quet; while feeding they utered a contented, conversational twittering in a low tone. Their motions were slow and the inclination of the head and bill very like that of Calidris. Indeed they reminded me of that bird in every respect except color. As the tide rose they collected on the higher rocks in perfect masses. Mr. Thomas says they

Junco hyemalis, Plec. nivalis, Eremophila cornuta
Tringa maritima

1876.
Apr. 12 Clear with rather fresh N. wind. Rose early and took a short walk before breakfast. Saw Junco hyemalis, a few; Plec. nivalis (on flying) and Eremophila cornuta, several large flocks. After breakfast ~~took~~ set out for Moses bay ledges with S. and Mr. Thomas in the Cathis boat, a small lapstrake. Saw numbers of fowl all the way but did not get any shots. Every few minutes however brought something new or something that I was not well acquainted with and I enjoyed the trull immensely. Arriving at the rocks indeed long before reaching them I was delighted at the sight of perfect swarms of Tringa maritima, and the very first rock we reached was fairly covered with them. Drifting in within ten yards of the flock we watched them a long time as they fed in perfect unconcern. ~~The~~ Finally we shot into them and in three discharges killed 15, all we cared for. The scattered bunches on the rocks around collected all together frightened at the reports, making a flock of at least 300. Their flight is excessively rapid and very like that of Cal. arenaria. The only note I heard from them while flying was a short quet, quet; while feeding they uttered a contented, conversational twittering in a low tone. Their motions were slow and the inclination of the head and bill very like that of Calidris. Indeed they reminded me of that bird in every respect except color. As the tide rose they collected on the higher rocks in perfect masses. Mr. Thomas says they

1876.
(April 12) are much more numerous in winter than now, also that he rarely sees them except on this island ledge of rocks. Here we also saw many shags G. dilophus flying about, nearly all high up. Creeping to the top of a rock I spied a pair of black ducks feeding on the shore below & as they jumped killed one & missed the other. Coming back sailed down on to a flock of Œdemia Americana & as they soon to pass us to windward, I shot down one at long range but it dove at once and we did not see it again. So we ran round the point by the landing the old squaws soon, & came by us and I killed an immature drake. Saw numbers of eiders ("sea ducks") and also Uria grylle, the latter always alone. They are very shy and all in adult pl. They rise easily from the water and fly exactly like an old squaw but faster than any duck I ever saw, zigzagging a little at times. I am now conscious of having seen them on the 10th first at Thatcher island, afterwards near Boon is. and at Cape Elisabeth. I spent the P. M. skinning birds. Going up to supper I heard the report of a gun behind the light house and looking over the cliff saw Mr. Thomas who shouted out that he had killed a "black old squaw." I was hurrying down to him with the dog when my foot caught for an instant in a crevice in the rocks and the next I was precipitated down some eight feet striking

1876.
(April 12) on the top of my head and cutting an ugly gash two inches long but luckily not injuring the skull. The muzzle of my gun probably broke the force of the fall as it was completely jammed up and rendered useless for the present until repaired. Though the evening the wound broke out bleeding several times & I was much weakened by loss of blood. When Mr. Thomas reached me he found me lying where I had struck on a narrow ledge barely three feet wide; the next descent was at least 20 ft. sheer.

Thursday
Apr. 13 Clear with wind S. veering to E. at sundown. Kept the sofa nearly all day getting out to the lighthouse once or twice, but was too feeble to walk much. Sea fowl flew all day long in clouds and the water around the point was literally alive with beds of coots, old squaws etc. Nearly all the coots were C. Am. & C. perspicillata in the ratio of about one of the latter to five of the former. Only a few scattering C. fusca were seen. Shuldrake apparently all M. serrator were likewise flying. They come by in flocks of rarely over twenty and string out more than the other fowl & also keep higher above the surface of the ocean. Saw several immense flocks of brant (B. bernicla) and shags (G. dilophus) The latter resemble the former almost exactly while on wing but fly differently. Storm spent most of the day skinning birds

1876.
Friday
Apr. 14

Point Lepreaux N. B.

Bernicla Canadensis Gracculus carbo
Colymbus torquatus Buteo lineatus purpureus - Circus Hud.

Cloudy with E. wind and frequent showers of mist & rain. Rose this morning feeling rather stronger but with a pretty sore head. Shortly after breakfast two geese (B. Can.) came flying along close to the water and lit off the point. One of them swam directly ashore and climbed up on a rock while the other - more suspicious - kept swimming about out of range of the land. Borrowing Stone's gun I started to stalk them and succeeding in getting up behind a rock within long range, got a shot at the head & neck of the one sitting on the rock and killed it. The other flew off but afterwards came back and answering its hook I called it up within long range and shot at it but without effect. Afterward went out on the point and lay for some time without getting any good shot though I found three long ones. This morning there was a heavy flight of coots and birds flew all day in a desultory manner. In the P.M. there was a large flight of gulls (L. argentatus) and cormorants. Of the latter all were G. dilophus excepting five G. carbo which came along very near the point, the white patches on head & flanks showing plainly. Saw several fine black old squaws & many changing Jd. ~~& spent much of the time watching the fowl through the telescope~~. Saw a good many eiders & several large flocks of brants, two Colymbus torquatus one Circus Hudsonius, & one Buteo purpureus

Habits of the coots.

1876.
(April 14)

Last night some twenty birds were killed by flying against the light and we found them this morning dead on the ground beneath it. All were M. melodia with the exception of one P. savanna and two Juncos. There were at least 100 M. melodia in the clearing around the house to day. I had spent much time both yesterday and to day watching the sea fowl through the glass. The coots are especially interesting and are decidedly the most lively of the water fowl here. They have a peculiar habit of rushing around on the surface of the water apparently walking on the tips of their toes with bodies & necks nearly perpendicular, and uttering incessantly meanwhile a curious ~~and indescribable~~ note, very loud. This comes from the sea in all directions and often when the flock is too far off to be seen. Last night we heard them as late as 10 o'clock. I have noticed this habit only in O. Americana & think the note is uttered only by them. To day I saw distinctly several O. Jurisdicta drinking the sea water lifting up their bills like hens. All the coots are exceedingly graceful on the water and stretch up their necks much more than the old squaws which ~~hold~~ carry their bills scarcely above the surface & sit very low in the water. The shildrakes seldom light near the point: indeed I have seen only one in the water so far.

1876.
Saturday
April 15

Point Lepreau N. B.

Diurnal migration of small birds

Cloudy with occasional rain and heavy fog all day. A very heavy flight of fowl continuing intermittantly all day. Coots were the most numerously represented and of them as before the O. Am. were largely in excess. Have seen only a few O. fusca and these always flying separately. To day hardly any fowl were seen to light and this Mr. Thomas tells me is always the case when they are flying well. Saw two or three very large flocks of E. mollissima at least 75 birds in some of them. They fly very low over the water and usually in a ~~line~~ parallel line like the front rank of regiment of soldiers. They present a most beautiful appearance the drakes showing almost entirely white. Went down on the rocks in the forenoon and lay there several hours but did not get a single good shot. Stone however killed an old squaw - a drake in winter pl. & then on the point it was most interesting to see the small birds come in out of the mist from the S. for many species were migrating at midday. Sparrows of various kinds but principally M. melodia, Junco, and Pas. iliaca came trooping along ~~close~~ to the water and all alighted among the rocks as soon as they reached the point. One very large flock of Turdus migratorius, a number of crows and a Chrysomitris — also landed. Saw a good many loons and one flock of Sterna maxima came by the point

Poocetes gramineus – Turdus pallasi et migratorius
Spizella monticola Regulus satrapa –

1876.
(April 15)

After dinner went down again Stone going out in the boat with Mr. T. and lying just off the point while I sat among the rocks. I killed an old squaw ♂ imp. pl. and a butter bill coot the latter a fine adult ♂. The first I shot flying as it rose from the water the latter was one of five that came swiftly past me within good range uttering their peculiar murmuring as they flew. I also missed a good shot at an adult ♂ O. perspicillata that came by me. Stone shot two ♂ O. am. from the boat. A good many M. serrator flew: they seem to keep invariably much higher above the water than the other fowl and usually fly in single file. Single cormorants were continually flying about but none came within range. The flight of the old squaw is peculiar and serves to distinguish it at once from any other bird. It is somewhat more erratic than in it motions than the other ducks and there is a certain peculiar dip to the wings: sometimes these numbers look as if they were acting independently of each other but this of course is only apparent.
Arrivals of small birds were Poocetes gramineus several; Turdus pallasi numbers, Turdus migratorius numbers. Have seen no Erythrophila since the 12th. Took a walk back in the woods in P.M. & saw Regulus satrapa & Spizella monticola. Had a lovely sunset off the point.

1876.
Sunday
April 16

Point Lepreaux N. B.

Extraordinary flight of fowl.

Morning clear with S.W. wind. Clouded up in P.M. and rained hard in the evg. with half a gale from the S. Though the forenoon a few large flocks of coots flew. After dinner took the telescope and went down to the lee side of the point with Mr. Thomas and lay there till ~~8~~ half past tiem. The fowl commenced moving almost as soon as we got there and the sight that we witnessed from that time till nearly dark was one that exceeded all my expectations. Thousands upon thousand of fowl were continually passing, stringing out in long lines, bunched together in masses, — in every conceivable form of marshalment in fact — all streaming along shore to the Eastward. Nearly all these birds were coot and most of them O. perspicillata in contrast with previous days. Great numbers of brant also flew at least 1000 being observed. Saw two or three good flocks of eiders also. The ~~fowl~~ coots lit in the water a good deal to day. In the cove to the W. at least 200 collected in a bed and I watched them a long time through the glass. In the flock I could find only a single pair of O. cen. all the others being O. perspicillata, the males very beautiful in their full plumage. Again I distinctly saw them drink the salt water, ~~lifting~~ elevating the bill almost perpendicularly at each sip. The peculiar murmuring noise seems to be made

Habits of the coots etc. Gallinago Wilsoni

1876.
(April 16)

by both the species and this flock was uttering it incessantly. Three Mergus serrator also lit near us and I had a good chance to watch them. One of them caught what looked like a small eel and had apparently much trouble in swallowing it, swimming rapidly about and shaking it violently in its bill. Two old pigeons, both drakes in sim. pl. came in nearly under the bank and I watched them also carefully. They are exceedingly beautiful and graceful on the water holding their long tails rather high and moving about with great ease. In common with the coots they always open their wings as they dive, the motion being very conspicuous when watched through the glass. The loons and shildrakes dive very differently and much more gracefully giving a forward leap so that the whole body nearly clears the surface and leaving only a ring on the water, while the other birds make an irregular splash. Of the coots G. parvipillata is the more graceful. G. Am. stretches up its neck more and at times looks strikingly like its fresh water namesake Fulica Am. It frequently carries its tail nearly vertically. In flying the coots always pass low over the water the long lines following the undulations of the waves. In diving the whole flock disappears almost at once. Took a walk after supper & started a snipe on the barrens behind the house

1876.

Monday April 17

Point Lepreau N. B.

Colymbus septentrionalis.

Clear with S. wind. The South winds here by the way are the coldest winds of all and correspond with our Nor. E. wind. There was a steady flight of coot and brant all the forenoon but after dinner time only a very few scattering fowl passed. Went out in the boat with Stone after breakfast and lay off the ledge all the forenoon. Fired a number of shots and knocked one 5 coot between us but got only two into the boat a ♂ & ♀ C. perspicillata. The male is a most beautiful bird when freshly killed the coloring of the bill being a vivid blood red shading into carmine, white and a large blotch of glossy black. The feet are very deep carmine and black. The coot were for the most part shy of the boat but occasionally a flock came within long range. They are extremely tough and we heard the shot strike many that did not fall. Others dropped their feet at the report & leaving the flock dropped off on the water but when we went for them they would dive so persistently that we generally failed to get them. Saw a few Colymbus septentrionalis flying: they look much smaller than the loon & the neck appears very slender. Mr. Thomas shot a C. arcticus down years ago. After dinner went down on the rocks and I knocked over a Shelldrake at about 100 yds, but failed to get it as it was only wing broken. Skinned birds the rest of the P. M.

1876.
Tuesday
April 18

Clear and calm. Went out in the boat immediately after breakfast with Stone and spent the forenoon. Birds commenced flying at sunrise and continued steadily passing until 1 P.M. when they ceased altogether but later in the afternoon a few more large flocks went by. ~~The had~~ Coots as usual predominated and the flocks are now almost exclusively O. hyspicillata with a good sprinkling of O. fusca. The latter much less often flock with the butter bills than the O. hyspicillata and almost always flys alone. O. Am is evidently the first to migrate, O. hyspicillata next and O. fusca closes the migration. The numbers of the coots that passed this morning though almost incredible were well nigh equalled by the brant which passed in perfect multitudes. Of the latter hundreds of flocks were seen and these were rarely composed of less than 100 individual. Their notes which I heard often are a confused and rather feeble gabble not nearly so musical as the honk of B. bernicla's. Their flight is usually about 15 ft above the water and they are generally crowded together in clusters. Their flapping is almost precisely like that of the wild goose. Several large flocks of S. mollissima passed and one gave us a long shot but we failed

(April 18) to get any down. Fired about twenty shots apiece at an average distance of about 80 yds. as the birds were very shy of the boat. Got into the boat 5 birds, 4 coots & a bald squaw a ♀ but little larger than a teal. Besides these we shot many others that scaled off and dropped too far off to be recovered. Their tenacity of life is perfectly wonderful and exceeds that of any other birds that I have shot. A male O. am. that we shot down from a flock dove repeatedly and we finally shot it again with B3 knocking it over on its back when it lay kicking its feet in the air until we got very near it when it turned over swam a few yards calling loudly & then went down again & swam a long distance under water. This was actually repeated three times before the bird could be caught, every shot knocking it over fairly. I discovered the true note of the O. perspicillata: it is a short qua, qua, quoc given when flying as observed to day. The flight of all these species of coots is perfectly identical. Any of them always pass the brant easily and in a few minutes have them far behind. The shooting is very exciting when birds fly as they did to day, and the flock presents a very pretty appearance as they come swiftly up over the water, at times

Point Lepreaux, N.B.
1876.
(April 18) flying so low over the surface that they are lost to view behind each swell. In the afternoon we went out again for a short time and shot two fine adult ♂ O. hyperboreus. When a coot is hard hit and flying it drops, a portion at least of the flock usually turn back and light near him. Saw my first raven to day, a fine large fellow that passed almost within shot of the light house. He looked very like a crow, rather longer than larger, his flight rather more easy with one or two intervals of sailing. Early this morning Mr. Thomas saw a pair of harlequin ducks diving near the rocks but they soon left. I forgot to mention that Mr. T. informs me that the ravens build in the face of a rocky cliff about a mile to the East of here. Cormorants were flying about all day as usual. In the afternoon saw a pair of Uria grylle diving near the point and watched them a long time through the glass. They make a very clean dive like a loon, leaving only a ring on the water. I find myself now able to distinguish all the water fowl at almost any distance when on wing. The most ~~most~~ prominent characteristics are briefly as follows. Brant; flapping of wings like B. Can. but form of flock different & a long line north

Point Lepreaux, N.B.
1876
April 18.

thick clumps or clusters. Loons, long neck & feet stretched out behind, flapping of wings quite rapid and comparatively direct. Eider ducks prominent colors & flight heavy always near the water flapping slower than the coots but not so slow as the brants. Shieldrake flight, nearly always at the height of about 20 yds above the water very swift with exceedingly rapid beating of the wings. Whistler flight highest of any of the fowl here with very rapid wing beats and prominently large head. Cormorant flight exactly like a loon at most times but neck thicker and colors different. Sometimes they sail hovering in a half circle or mount straight up with half a dozen quick beats of the wing like a night hawk when rising in the air to "boom" Frequently one will start up in this way from a flock passing onshore. Their alledged resemblance to brant when flying is only true in so far as relates to the order of the flock; the wing beats are much quicker & the shape of the bird different. The Uria grylle always skims along close to the water inclines to the right or left every few yards & lights exactly like a coot. The old squaw's flight has been before mentioned before. They invariably skim along the very surface of the water & their flight reminds me somewhat of petrels. G. has a ♂ D. virens skim

Point Sapreaux, N.B.

Wednesday April 19

Alternately cloudy and clear. Wind light and changeable shifting entirely round the compass during the day. Fowl flew well from daylight up to about 9 A.M. when they stopped entirely. Rose at 5 and with S. went out in the boat. Fired a number of shots all long as usual but got only two coot both A. fuscicollata adult ♂s. Shot down several others that escaped. At least half the birds that passed were A. fusca, the remainder nearly all A. fuscic. After breakfast started out again with Thomas & S. Got a long shot into a flock of A. fusca and killed one a rather poor ♂ that flew a long distance and dropped dead. Then a flock of ten "skunk heads" came along strung out in a long line. I fired a long shot at them aiming twelve feet at least ahead of the leader and wounding the next to the hindmost bird of the line. It flew some distance then dropped into the water when the others came back and lit with it. Rowing out all flew excepting a ♂ then started off several times but immediately came back to the wounded one (a ♀) & finally we broke its wing at long range. At the shot the wounded ♀ dove and though we carefully watched & the water was very smooth we did not see it again. The last one also disappeared after one or two dives. When they go to is a mystery to me as they never as far as I have observed

Point Lepreaux, N.B.
1876.
(April 19) swim with only the bill above water as some of the fresh water ducks do. After this we started for the ledges and arriving there found an immense bed of coots sitting on the water. At least 500 must have been collected together sitting in clusters with scattering ones between & covering an acre or more of water. I got one good shot & knocked down two of better bills both of which for a wonder were killed dead. Then we went ashore on the rocks leaving Mr. T. to sail about in the boat and stir them up. Stow got one good shot & killed one & I knocked over a bird from a flock at the longest distance I ever saw a bird shot — 100 yds at least & this with No 3 shot. It fell into the water broken winged & got off out of sight before the boat came. Mr. T. saw a flock of about 50 T. maritima & said they were so shy that he could not get within range of them. We also started an immense flock of brant out of the water. Only two or three flocks of the latter birds flew this morning & the flight has probably passed. As we left the ledges I caught sight of a Grants head among the rocks above high water mark & stalking it, got a flying shot as it rose like a black duck with a single quick spring. I flew off some hundred yards then toward it head & finally striking the water head first turned a somersault

Point Lepreaux N. B.
1876
(April 19)

& lay dead upon the surface. Upon picking it up my chagrin was excessive to find it worthless as a specimen for the lower mandible was entirely gone — fairly torn out by the roots probably cut off by a rifle ball, and evidently done only a few hours before.
I heard to day the note of O. fusca several times; it is a hac-ha-hac very like the note of O. hyspicillata but a little higher. Saw a few scattering eider ducks around the ledges but no flocks passed to day. Spent the P. M. packing up for our start home to morrow. The appearance of a flock of O. hyspicillata as they come up to the boat is very beautiful, the heads of the males appearing snow white. A very remarkable fact is the discrepancy of the sexes in the flocks of coots we have seen here. Only two females have been shot & but rarely more than two or three are seen in flock; indeed frequently flocks of twenty or more are composed entirely of males. Last night being very dark we went out to see the small birds come against the light house & a most interesting sight it was. Sparrows & several species kept coming up like moths around a candle & every now & then one would dash against the glass & fluttering a moment fall to the ground. Some more wary kept coming & going from the streak of light but avoided too close contact. I caught a Junco easily as it fluttered against the window.

From Point Lepreaux N.B. to Boston Mass

1876.
Thursday
Apr. 20 Clear with strong N.W. wind. Packed all our things after breakfast, having previously tel. to Taylor at St. John to stop for us at the point. The steamer appeared at about 10 A.M. & laying to, sent the life boat with a crew of 4 men & the 1st mate ashore for ourselves and luggage. As we came under the guards of the steamer the wind & tide raised a heavy chop sea and for a few moments there seemed very prospect of the boat getting stove or capsized but we finally got aboard all right. Reached East port at 1 P.M. and found Merriam & Wilson all right. Leaving the town at 2 P.M. we had to run entirely around Campa Bella but were repaid for the very extra tediousness by the fine view. Reached Mt. Desert by sunset and enjoyed the superb scenery under the best possible effect. Saw very few duck and no "shag".

Friday
April 21 Cloudy with rain & wind from the S.W. Rose at 5 to find the boat running up Portland harbor. Reached the city at 5.45 & left it at 6.30. After a smooth passage arrived at the wharf at Boston at 3 P.M. seeing nothing by the way more remarkable than a flock of brants & another of O. fuscas off Thatcher island. Found Charles on the wharf and taking Taylor with us we drove out, stopping a moment at Tonks' to have my battered gun. The expenses of this trip were as follows

Tickets (each way 5.00)	10.00	21.00	
Meals on boat (each way 2.50)	5.00	1.00	For old year
Board at Thomas' 60¢ per day	6.00	1.00	" coming
	21.00	22.00	

Scops Asio - nest two eggs fresh - Belmont
Heavy flight of Snipe - Arrivals of birds during my absence in N. B.

Clear and warm. Spent the day mounting my goose and thinning ducks. Late in P.M. took a drive with Stone and when coming through School St. a little after sunset my eye happened to light on a Scops that was sitting on a horizontal limb directly over the road. He was very tame and after watching him a moment I got out and commenced pelting stones at him. Every time the stone passed him he would dive down nearly to the ground and sweeping up gracefully, alight on the next tree, dropping upon the limb and fluttering his wings sidling like a Buteo. Finally he took refuge in a hollow trunk peeping out at me so grotesquely that I could scarcely refrain from laughing but when I commenced to climb up, he was off again. Mr. Hagar afterwards informed me that he visited the nest of this bird in the same orchard ~~yesterday~~ and found the female sitting on two eggs & this was undoubtedly the male parent. Juncos are still abundant & a few fox sparrows remain. Turdus pallasi arrived Apr. 2. T. pinicola Apr. 2. T. coronata Apr. 2. T. palmarum Apr. Regulus calendula Apr. Har. rufus Apr. Rallus Virgin. Apr. Porzana Carolina Apr. Ceryle alcyon Apr. 16 Spizella pusilla Apr. S. socialis Apr. Arborescent vegetation is remarkably far advanced. The chestnut buds are well unfolded and the lilac buds quite large. Grace visited the Buteo lineatus nest in Deadham on the 20th and found the ♀ sitting on three eggs. He had to throw stones at her to get her to fly & fired twice, missing both times.

John & Robert Nesbitt with John Taylor killed 11 snipe on the Fresh Pond meadows to day. Most of them were found in the lower meadow.

Nest of Scops Asio

1876.

Tuesday
April 25 Cloudy and very disagreeable with E. wind. After breakfast Charlie drove me up to the Warren run where I hunted hard for a woodcock's nest with Shot. Flushed a ♂ cock within 6 ft. of the spot where I took my nest last year but did not succeed in finding either the ♀ or nest though I doubt not that it was there somewhere. Shot worked very finely making the excellent record of 8 points on 9 birds and 4 of them grown. Started also a bevy of 4 quail and got points on them after they scattered. Saw a few Juncos and a moderate number of D. palmarum et coronata.

Wednesday
April 26 Cloudy and chilly with E. wind. Took the 8.40 Woburn car and got off at Frazars to visit his owls nest with him but found he had gone already so struck over to the nest and examined it carefully. The ♀ was sitting on 2 eggs Sat. but F. (as I afterwards learned) found the whole affair cleaned out this morning. The hole was a natural opening where a limb had rotted out, ~~though~~ afterwards excavated by a Colaptes which raised a brood of young therein in 1874. Last year F. found a Scops with 3 young in the hole & left them untouched. The cavity was of the usual interior shape & descended 12 in. The bottom was covered with feathers, all that I could plainly see being those of the robin. Underneath

Arrivals H. horreorum — one — Belmont. M. Mel. fuliginosus — general — Apr 14 — 5 Dec.

1876.

(April 26) the tree were several pellets as usual. There was no nest material beyond the feathers. The sitting bird examined by F. Sat was, like the ♂ that I saw the same evening, a gray owl. Last year the bird with the three young was red.
After leaving him I searched all the orchards on "Flag Staff hill" but found nothing. Returning home by way of the pond saw a single H. horreorum. Mel. fuliginosus were seen in numbers ~~yesterday by~~ on the 24th by R. Deane.
In P.M. drove up to the willows with Sagar and visited the grove where I found my Buteo lineatus nest last year but the nest was pulled down & probably robbed as F. has seen the birds there lately. Then visited several likely owl holes and found pellets under one but no bird or nest therein. Saw & heard a number of R. calendula

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Saturday April 29 Clear and a lovely day. Took the 7.30 train for Lincoln intending to hunt for the nest of the red tailed hawks that I saw near the depot in 1875. Found the ♂ bird sitting on nearly the same tree where I noticed him last season and upon nearing the spot he rose high in the air and sailed for a long time overhead but I could not find the nest though I searched all the woods in the neighborhood. Found two crows nests, both in the extreme tops of pines. Both birds started off

1876.
(April 29)

Arrivals Vireo solitarius - one ♂ - Brookline (M.)
" Mimotilta varia " " " "
Hirundo horreorum - gen. Newton (Apr. 28) C.G.

Nest building of Parus atricapillus in silence ~~and flew~~ when I came under the tree and flew away through the trees as stealthily as possible. Spent the whole forenoon hunting through the woods for hawks nests & the orchards for owls but found absolutely nothing excepting a chickadee's nest which from the peculiarity of the situation merits a few remarks. I was standing still in an oak grove when I heard a dull tapping almost at my feet & looking closely saw a chickadee emerge from the top of stump with a mouthful of rotten fiber which she flew off some distance with before dropping. Going up to examine the ~~oak~~ nest more closely I found that the bark had started off from one side of the stump (an oak stub 36 in. high & 6 in diameter) leaving a small space between it and the rotten wood. Entering at the top the birds had worked at first in a little, then downward until the cavity reached deeper than the indirect rays of light penetrated ~~would reach~~. The little fellow soon came back and went briskly to work again ~~not~~ regarding my near proximity in the least. Saw a number of R. palustrum some few R. prima and a number of R. calendula; the first & last are unusually abundant this year. Arrivals were Mimotilta varia one ♂ and Vireo solitarius one ♂ both singing. One each of them were also seen by Mr. Cayen in Brookline. Saw a few Lon. albicollis but Mr. Maynard tell me he saw them April , There was a general arrival of

Arrivals (Apr. 30) Pipilo erythrophthalmus Wilt. Wh.
Apr. " (" ") Anthus ludovicianus "
" " Porzana Carolina Linn. Apr.

1876.
(April 29) Hirundo horreorum at Newton Apr. 28.
Mr. Eager found a nest of Buteo lineatus in Brookline to day. It was built in a large white pine as usual about half way up. He caught the ♀ parent with a steel trap set in the nest. The eggs were 4 in number & had been incubated only a few days. They were exhibited by him at the club this evening and were the most beautiful set I ever examined. Jesse Warren took a set of 3 eggs at Newton April 1st. They had been incubated several days. The nest was the same as that he took two sets of eggs from last year and one set in 1874. He caught both parents this season substituting hens eggs in the nest on setting a steel trap under them.
Saw a number of Juncos in small flocks

Sunday April 30 Cloudy with warm rain commencing at 10 A.M.
Drove up to the Warren swamp with R. Dean in D. U. and hunted for the woodcocks nest again but without success though we started the ♂ in nearly the same place as the other day. There was a general arrival of Anthus varia & I heard a single Pipilo erythrophthalmus. The grass on the meadows is getting very green. Two snipe were seen this morning by R. Nesbitt and he reports rails very abundant.
Goodale had a Porzana noveboracensis sent in about two weeks since

Melanistic Bubo

Turdus migratorius nest & eggs

Monday May 1

Notes on Bubo virginianus – nest of gray squirrel

Clear and very cold with N.W. wind. Max. temperature 40°. Rose early and met Stage at his house by appointment. Drove up to Lincoln with him and visited the swamp where we looked for the great horned owls nest in March. Hunted the whole place very thoroughly for hawks nests but did not see an egg all day though a pair of Buteo lineatus were hanging about the place and by their persistent dogging of our footsteps convinced us that they had a nest somewhere in the vicinity. The ♂ came overhead a number of times and I had one very fair shot at him but the gun hung fire so badly that I missed. Saw one of the Bubos the ♂ apparently, and I fired a long shot at him but without effect. He was followed by a mob of crows as usual & was exceedingly shy. A number of pellets that we found in his haunt were of enormous size: one of them was composed entirely of skunks hair and bones, among the latter the claws of the front feet being all present. Saw also an Accipiter fuscus, and a large hawk coal black. The latter was emphatically not an Architeles and I think it must have been a melanistic Buteo borealis as it was very large & its flight etc. identical with that species. It passed very near & I had a good view of it. Shot two Vireo solitarius & two Hirundo horreorum. There was a general rise of V. solitarius and I shot a ♂ P. pilo, D. coronata et palmarum still abundant. Sayornis in small companies & apparently not breeding yet. I found a nest of Turdus mig. with 4 eggs, fresh.

We also found a gray squirrel nest in a hollow pine, quite a large one, which we shot. Stage thought it was a fox squirrel but I thought it was a gray squirrel & the fur proved it to be so. The old squirrel was in the nest & the young were all dead, having been killed by the fall from the tree.

1876.
Tuesday
May 2

Clear with high N. wind. Row early and took the train to Concord. Got Jim's boat at Buttricks and started down river. Landed about the middle of the Great meadows and started to beat for Snipe when I espied two Gambetta melanoleuca feeding on the edge of a pool. Calling in the dog I walked up (for there was no cover) to within 30 yds. and killed both at a shot. They were in fine spring plumage and proved on dissection to be both males. Beat the rest of the way down without seeing anything but returning to the boat "Shot" started off up the meadow and came to a fine point. Hurrying up to him I started about ten Snipe that were lying around him, killing one and missing two more. Afterwards jumped up three more near the same place killing two and missing one. Shot also a Petrochelidon lunifrons and two H. horreorum. Starting again down river I rowed to below Balls hill where I took lunch in a pretty little sunny nook. Saw nothing here except a Pandion Carolinensis and numerous D. coronata et pelmarum. Returning to the Snipe meadow Shot found and pointed handsomely two more birds both of which I killed. Here I also shot a crow at quite long range. Reaching Buttricks at 3.30 I started for the depot but when crossing the "Red bridge" Shot ran out into the meadow and pointed a Snipe which after firing three times at with no 3 shot I bagged.

Saw three gray squirrels

Bag of W. B. Snipe 6 – Sem. yellow legs 2

Nest of the woodcock

1876.
Wednesday
May 3 Cloudy and chill, with E. wind. Spent the forenoon mounting birds, and took the 4.15 P.M. train for Concord where I met Jim by appointment and drove up to Mr. Robbins in Carlyle to see a woodcock nest. Arriving a little before sunset Mr. R's eldest son conducted us to the nest. When we got within ten yards of it we stopped and our guide pointed out the sitting bird which we could distinctly see. Approaching slowly & keeping Jim's pointer at heel we got within arms length of the nest without disturbing the bird, and squatting down in a semicircle about her we fastened our eyes for full fifteen minutes on the interesting sight: interesting! nay more than interesting; it was a very page of Nature's romance it was; the beautifully marbled bird sitting quietly on her treasure within a few feet of her most deadly enemy, man, to say nothing of the keen scented, staunch pointer that had been instrumental in bringing low so many of her kindred. But there the brown bird sat apparently as impassive as if carved from stone; but no, the outward composure did but conceal the wildly beating heart within whose rapid pulsations were betrayed by a slight almost imperceptible corresponding movements of the tail and back, a heart filled with dread at the fearful danger but a heart withal so brave that rather than betray the parents trust it was prepared to hazard life itself. The full, dark eye, how beautiful that too. Not a motion of the eyelid even would its owner allow, all the time that we sat talking so near to her.

1876.
(May 3) The sun was just setting and for a moment it glanced out through a rent in the dull storm clouds lighting up the quiet little woodland nook and lending an additional lustre to the full glorious eye of the sitting bird. The full chorus of hylas now broke out on the still air and a robin burst into song from a neighboring pine, but for the woodcock the spell was not yet broken. Reaching cautiously forward I touched her tail with my finger tips - then her back stroking the feathers gently; still she stirred not; but finally pressing down a little harder so that she felt the weight of my hand she sprang with startling suddenness directly from the nest whistling loudly as she rose, then dropping to the ground tumbled about among the oak leaves uttering continuously a complaining note so deep and low that it sounded almost like a suppressed growl. Following her a little way she rose again and made off through the tree tops. The nest was situated about ten rods from a densely wooded run, and on high dry ground in a little glade grown up with scattering hazel & alder bushes, quite an open situation it seemed to me. It was of anything a trifle more substantially built than the one I found last year and was composed outwardly of leaves & lined with dry grass so thoroughly indeed that the exterior material was entirely concealed. The hollow was not deep and the external diameter of the nest so small that the bird

Chatham, Mass.

1876.
Friday
May 5 Cloudy with wind E. Left Boston at 8 A.M. on the O.C.R.R. with Messrs Cory & Hull and arrived at Harwich at 12. Thence by stage 8 miles to Chatham which we reached by 2 P.M. Put up at our Alonzo Nye's with whom Cory was acquainted and changing our things started out at once in quest of birds. I shot a fine ♀ Sturnella magna that sprang under my feet from the beach grass and later in afternoon shot both barrels at a ♀ Circus Hudsonius that passed me within long range. Hull shot a very fine Ag. dains phoeniceus. Sturnella magna is more abundant here than any place I have ever been in but are also more shy than I have ever seen them before.

Saturday
May 6 Cloudy with E. wind. Commenced raining at about 10 A.M. and rained hard all the rest of the day. Rose at 5 A.M. and getting breakfast started off in a dory with Don. Nye as boatman, to pull out to the S. end of Monomoy island. Both wind & tide being against us the progress was necessarily very slow, and we did not reach our ~~out~~ distination till 2 P.M. with a tow behind a sail boat the last 4 miles to boat.
We saw by the way a number of interesting birds, among others small companies of Sterna Caspia (~~Tot. Regia~~) at intervals both alone and among the gulls. They sat on the sand bars exactly like as the smaller species do and their flight

Chatham, Mass. Tringa Americana, Tringa canutus, Sterna hirundo

1876.

May 6) is very similar but I think more sad than that of any of the laridae that I am acquainted with. Large gulls were excessively abundant L. argentatus et marinus being the only ones recognized; the former were nearly all immature while of the latter there was not a single adult was seen. Some small flocks of Bernicla brenta, numbers of Mergus serrator and a few flocks of Oidemia fusca were seen flying about. Loons, all C. torquatus, were quite numerous and we heard the calling frequently. Off the Brenting clubhouse we espied a small flock of birds sitting on a grassy island and rowing up killed 10 of them with four barrels. The inferior went only a short distance and I killed them all (four) in a few shots. They proved to be Tringa Americana the first I had ever seen alive, in fine spring dress. I recognized them before we got within range by their conspicuously long bills. They stood very erect but when feeding skulked about in a crouching posture like the other tringae. The note which I heard a number of times was totally unlike that of any other marsh bird I have heard. It is a very distinct rolling whistle more like the willets perhaps than any other bird's. One that I picked up wing broken uttered this cry continuously and so loudly that it sounded almost like a shriek.

Chatham, Mass.

Squatarolla Helvetica
Habits of the gulls.

Tringites melodus, Sem. Ac.
Symphemia semipalmata, three
Calidris arenaria, many all flock
Strepsilas Richardsonii, one

None of these birds were very fat and all were marked more or less handsomely with black on the breast and red on the back. Saw also three Squatarolla Helvetica and three Symphemia semipalmata. The former were seen yesterday for the first time. Reaching the point had a good dinner at the light house and looked at Beasse's dwelling house which Cory thinks of buying. Saw an immense bed of roots off the sea beach at least 5,000 there must have been of them. Coming back in a sail boat we saw on the way numbers of Ag. melodus (50 a man) one flock of Calidris arenaria and a single Strepsilas probably Richardsonii. Cory shot two A. melodus & Hull two immature Larus agentatus. One of the latter which was wing broken bit most savagely and would hang on to anything that was placed within reach like a snapping turtle even allowing himself to be lifted by it. Reached the "Bunting house" by 4 P.M. pretty tired and completely wet through. Looking out of the door at 10 P.M. just before turning into my bunk I heard the long drawn plaintive whistle of a Woodcock coming up through the darkness & mist from the flats to the Westward. This bird is as much nocturnal in habits as the snipe or woodcock. Passerculus savanna, M. melodia Sturnella magna and Agelaius phoe. are all abundant on the island.

All the gulls were dressed within some by a pair of crows which Dr. Hilliard shot by a carefully arranged stratagem. The crows were dressed on a small B.I. the effect being that of a gibbet hung with the carcasses of a gull.

Chatham, Mass.
1876.
Sunday
May 7

Clear and warm in forenoon. P.M. cloudy with heavy fog and thunder storm at sunset. W.S.S. Rose late and went down to the Brant boxes at about 10 A.M. Cory & Hull lay at the "Gravel bar" Bon. with myself at the "Bradhole" Saw a few brant but none came within range. I shot three im. Larus argentatus & Hull one do. I also shot an C. semipalmatus from a small flock and saw several others. Saw Ac. semipalmatus singly and small flocks, & Tringoides macularius a number. Saw also a fine ad ♂ Somateria mollissima which passed the box within twenty yards before I caught sight of him. Numbers of Mergus serrator and several Sterna caspia. Also a single Sterna frenata. A flock of about ~~tens~~ S. Helvetica lit on an island near us and I tried to stalk them but they were too shy. They presented a most beautiful appearance, in their perfect summer plumage. Returning to the house at 1 P.M. we had a good dinner and immediately after started in Bon's dory for Chatham which we reached at 6 P.M. shooting three Gambetta melanolnca on the way.

~~Monday~~
~~May 8~~

To day at Cambridge was very warm ~~and fresh the~~ maximum temperature reaching 85°. The following arrivals were noted

Grayer found nest of Ac. f. Cooperi in Waltham 1858 fresh.

1876.

Monday

May 8

Chatham Mass. The Last Gallinago Wilsi.

" Falco sparverius, L.

Clear and very warm in A.M. Cloudy with rain in P.M. Had breakfast early and went out on the meadows S. of the town. I shot a fine pair of Agelaius melanus & saw several others. Marsh birds are beginning to come in numbers as I saw a dozen or more flocks of Rails (both species) a large flock of Tringa canutus and several Gambetta melanolenca. Heard a Dendr. aestiva and a Parula Am. Spizella pusilla is very abundant here as are also crow blackbirds which are around the house in large flocks. Dan has ten live brant which he uses for decoys. They were all shot last month and their broken wings were well healed. They become tame in a few days and are most beautiful birds. Their notes are a gabble, a quack almost like a duck's but a little hoarser and a hiss like the domestic goose's. Their motions are all essentially goose like but they are more graceful birds than the larger species. They run very rapidly on land and with perfect ease & grace and feed readily on corn and green grass. Took the stage at 12, the cars at Harwich at 2.15 and arrived in Boston at 6.15 P.M. Saw a single Falco sparverius on the marsh this morning.

Hendroica coronata & Goodale, Wakefield, Mass.

Three snipe were shot at Cambridge this morning by Johnson Nesbitt.

D. palmarum last seen D. estiva first o (Arrivals 2 ick May 11)

1876.

Tuesday

May 9 Cloudy & raind nearly all day. Spent the entire day skinning and mounting birds. Heard a single Vireo gilvus this morning also numbers of D. flavifrons also 2 D. estiva D. palmarum last seen seen on garden

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Thursday

May 11 Clear with high N.W. wind and quite cool Arrivals were Vireo noveboracensis 1 ♂, Setophaga ruticilla 2 adult ♂ (♂ 1 ♀ or imm. ♂), Turdus fuscescens gen. n., Rhynchophanes solitarius gen. n. & Lanius Belmont in P.M. arrivals were Turdus mustelinus 1 ♂ Geothlypis trichas gen. n. Lind. Pennsylvania 1 ♂, Sturnus vulgaris 1 ♂ (singing in air) Rose at 5 this morning and went up to the swamps. Found birds decidedly numerous but had so poor luck in only shots that I bagged only 11 Tringa 1 Totanus solitarius, 1 Rallus virgin. 1 Vireo Nov. 3 Mel. palustris 3 Parula Am (1 ♀) Saw at least a dozen Parula Am in one flock. The morning was so cold that the birds were congregated in the little sunny sheltered nooks. Least fly catchers with several species of warblers were picking up the torpid insects from the ground. D. coronata is still abundant but most of the individuals are females. Rails were exceedingly numerous & I heard them everywhere through the swamps. Saw a single Tyrannus spaverius skimming along close over the meadows. Late in P.M. took a drive up through Belmont & saw the species enumerated above. The grass is very green & high for the season but arboreal vegetation rather backward even

The first this morning started at all so yet.

Habits of Ardetta exilis

Arrivals

1876.
Friday
May 12 Sunrise clear but clouds soon gathered & it commenced raining by 10 A. M. Off at 7 A. M. with Stow driving up to Prospect St. where we tied the horse & shot a few birds, then on to "the willows" where we found warblers quite numerous and shot until stopped by the rain.

Arrivals noted were Hel. mycisfilla gen. or L. macularia, small arrival, Myiodioctes pusillus one ♂, Ardetta exilis one ♂, L. coronatus one ♀. Saw Seiurus aurocapillus (small, pale) for the last time yesterday and to day.

Shot Parus atri 2 ♂♂ ♀, D. discolor ♂, M. varia 1 ♂, Seth. cuticilla 1 ♂, Goniaphea ludovi 1 ♂ Ardetta exilis 1 ♂. Parulas Am. was excessively abundant everywhere. The Ardetta started from the road in front of the horse and lit in a bush over the water. I walked up to within about 10 paces then shot it with my Stephens pistol. It fell broken winged into the water and swam rather easily across a ditch to the shore where it awaited my approach without any effort at concealment. When I put out my hand it struck at it with wonderful rapidity and directness of aim driving the point of its sharp bill through the skin. Its stroke was as usual however comparatively feeble. It also ruffled up its feathers like a wounded Botaurus and uttered an angry squaking noise. When pushed in the bushes it sat with head drawn in and frequently jetted up its tail. Its stomach was fairly crammed with white cotton wool. There were in the stomach three small parasitic worms and around the intestines many larger ones.

D. coronata still abundant

Habits of Antrostomus vociferus

Saturday May 13 Indus Swainsoni et Olivea. Nest of D. Pinus

Clear and a lovely day. Went up on the farm this morning taking my Stephens pistol. Shot 14 birds in 19 shots most of them very common species of which I wished a few additional specimens. Birds were in great abundance but I did not see anything very rare. Among my specimens were Mniotilta varia 3, Spizella socialis 3, D. æstiva 1, T. fuscescens 1, E. minimus 1, and the best, Antrostomus vociferus 1♀. The latter started from among some scanty bushes on the edge of an open field and lit lengthwise as usual on an oak limb. Having only one shell left I determined to get near enough to be sure of my bird but soon found this a more difficult undertaking than I had anticipated, for the bird would never let me get nearer than twenty yds, before taking wing. She usually flew not more than ten yards at a time alighting for the most part on the ground. Her flight was almost as light and irregular as a butterfly. When she lit she seemed to drop "all in a heap" as if shot. Just before taking wing she would invariably bob her head up and down exactly like the yellow leg and some of the plover. Once when flying she uttered a low cluck. She finally lit on a fence where I stalked her carefully & shot her. Watched a ♀ D. pinus commencing her nest on the horizontal branch of a yellow pine. Saw a flock of 15 thrushes 2 H. Swainsoni, 2 T. Olivea & 1 T. fuscescens. D. coronata still abundant

1876.

Chatham Mass.

Symphemia semipalmata - Zenaidura Carolinensis

Monday May 15

Cloudy with E. wind. Left Boston by the 8 A.M. train for Chatham where I arrived at 2 P.M. After changing my things went out on the marsh with Mr. H. B. Brown of Boston whom I found stopping at home. We shot about twenty Jacks most of them G. minutilla Sand Peep, semipalmatus in numbers, one flock of Totanus melanoleuca and a single Zenaidura Carolinensis. Mr. F. W. Emerson a young man from Newton Mass also stopping at the house brought in a fine ♀ Symphemia semipalmata. The gunners here tell me that this bird used to breed abundantly on Monomoy island.

Tuesday May 16

Clear but with cold S. E. wind. Started off immediately after breakfast rowing down to Harding's beach where we hired a sail boat and started off for water fowl. Sailed down to the S. end of Monomoy island without seeing anything remarkable, excepting a few scattering flocks of coot. Rounding the point we passed a sand bar covered with Larus agentatus and among them about 20 Sterna fuscata. Keeping outside we found an immense bed of coots lying off the light house close in to the beach and chasing them about for some time we shot three, two O. Am. & one O. perspicillata. There must have been thousands collected here. They were strung along the shore just outside the surf for one half a mile, and flocks were continually coming and going. When they rose which they did

Immense bed of coots. Som. mollissima
Sterna hirundo, S. paradisea obtus. Bal. americana, S. intupres

1876.
(May 16)

at our approach nearly all together, the air seemed fairly full of them. They separated up as they went off into bunches and before many minutes began to return, when in an incredibly short time another large bed would be formed. I did not hear one of them utter a sound. The three species were pretty evenly represented, L. perspicillata being perhaps a little the scarcer. Saw also among the coots a flock of S. Somateria mollissima among them and fine drakes. Saw a number of loons, all apparently C. torquatus and heard one "hollering." On our way back found the inner shore of the point literally alive with shore birds, principally C. arenaria and Strepsilas interpres. Also on a sand spit adjoining a large number of S. frenata. Tried hard to land but the tide was running out and our boatman refused to beach the deep draught sail boat fearing that we might have to stay out all night if we got fairly aground so we had to sail off from the tantalizing sights. Running up the bay I shot a pair of Sterna hirundo that were sitting on the poles of some weirs. These are the first that I have seen. Arriving at Hardings landing before sunset we spent an hour or more shooting on a dry gravelly "sink" behind the ridge killing a lot of peeps and ring necks. The birds come in here to spend the night. Also shot a ♂ A. melodus that was flying with ring

Chatham, Mass.

Habits notes etc of Sterna frenata

1876.
Wednesday
May 17

Clear with cold E. wind. Rowed down to Harding's after breakfast and took the sail boat again getting off in her at about 11 A.M. Sailed directly down to the point of Monomoy is where we chased the last terns about for some time, killing four. Landing on the beach at about 2 P.M. Mr. Brown set out some decoys and lay in a stand while I tramped about in search of birds. Found sandling in large flocks each flock usually accompanied by five or six Strepsilas interpres. All these birds were very shy but I managed to knock over a few of the former and one of the latter while Mr. Brown got one three very fine turnstones and five or six more sandling. Some of the sandling were however in full plumage and I had almost given up getting a good one when Mr. Emerson fired a long shot into a flock killing a very fine ♂ which he kindly gave me. Sterna frenata was abundant here a colony having evidently selected this spit as a breeding ground. About 100 pairs were collected and I had a fine chance to watch them. Their ordinary note is kit-he kill-he kil lie but when chasing one another the utter a very loud harsh note almost like the "cloth ripping" one of S. paradisea. Sometimes a pair would come shooting over the beach ~~like~~ with wings set and inclining gracefully to the right or left the male uttering his cries incessantly: at such times they flew with arrowy swiftness and their

Larus Bonapartii Stercorarius parasiticus habits flight etc

1876.
(May 17) evolutions reminded me strongly of those of Chaetura pelasgia under similar circumstances like them also these individuals would be seen flying together quite as often as two. When flying about over the water the resemble swallows very closely especially in color. When three or four are fishing on a school of fry they seem to fairly dance in the air with delight. Sometimes a single bird will come along flying slowly with a very jerky motion but at most times their flight is very graceful. They settled on the sand flats at low tide in a large body mixing in with the sandlings also at times. When sitting thus they are quite shy and will not allow an approach to within gun range. When flying about also they were also for the most part careful to keep out of shot. On this sand spit I saw also a company of about 20 small square tailed gulls that I took for L. Bonapartii. I saw also during the day five or six Stercorarius parasiticus. They are called by the gunners here sea hens & also gredy hawks (probably corrupted from giddy hawks) They flew for the most part in pairs. Their flight was very different from a Larus the flappings quicker & firmer and with circular wheeling like a hawk. We saw them pick up food from the water separately & in this they acted like the other gulls dropping their feet when about to seize the object. The gunners say that they are tamer than the

1876.
(May 17)

Chatham, Mass.

Singular habit of coots, Mergus serrator
Kingfishers nest

larger gulls and that they can be caught with a hook and line. Heard no cry of any kind. Coming up the bay at sunset saw many large flocks of coots flying N. and Mr. Brown showed me a singular trick that could be played on them. Watching his chance when a flock was coming up to pass overhead he suddenly gave a hideous yell when the whole body (about 100 white wings) came pitching down headlong from their great elevation as if every bird had been shot: down they came with set wings and a rushing noise like the wind roaring through the woods until they nearly touched the water when they resumed their ordinary flight. Had they not been a little astern of us we should have got a good shot at them. We tried this afterwards on other flocks and when they were near enough to hear the shout the success of the dodge was unfailing. Saw many Shildrake (M. serrator) flying as they usually do here in large loose masses without any apparent order or system. I forgot to mention that I saw a few Sterna Caspia on the 16th.

Thursday
May 18

Cloudy with occasional rain. Dug out a kingfishers hole after breakfast. It went in about 5 feet in rather clayey sand & was evidently finished but with no eggs. It was shaped like ⚲. Took the noon train home. Saw two ♂ D. coronata in Cambridge.

Friday May 19 — Clear and a lovely day. Spent the entire day skinning birds also hiring Stone to help me. Walking out in the garden after breakfast saw a pair of Icterus Spurius. The ♂ was one of those immature greenish birds with a black throat. Came in and got my gun but when I got out again they were missing. The note was as remarked in Oct. exactly like the coo of the red wing blackbird. Heard a Turdus Swainsoni singing faintly in the garden at sunset. Heard Jerd. C. profectus this evening.

Sunday May 21 — Cloudy with thunder showers. Spent all day yesterday with Stone working on the birds brought up from Chatham and finished them by evening making in the two days over thirty skins and fit mounted. This morning heard the faint monotone of D. striata in our garden. The trees are leafing out very fast and vegetation is unusually green and luxuriant this Spring. In the P.M. took a ride up through the Willows heard Cy. cyanea chirping and saw a Contopus virens. Frazar saw several P. rubra and a My. Canadensis. Thr. 80° in P.M.

Monday May 22 — Clear and hot, Thr. 85. This morning heard an indigo bird singing in our garden also a My. Canadensis et M. pusillus. The song of the latter resembles that of the water thrush but possesses none of its beauty. Represented in words it is like *she* ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-tee. The bird has also a complaining whining note something like that of the vireos. It jerks its tail like M. Canadensis

1876.
Tuesday
May 23 Morning cloudy & very cold. Thm 42 at sunrise. Cleared up soon. Afternoon pleasant & warm in the sun but with cold N. W. wind. Took the 7.30 train for Lincoln. Leaving the train at the depot I found it so cold that I was obliged to run a long distance to get warm. Striking into the woods W. of the depot found the edges of the woodland literally alive with birds of all kinds, all silent and collected into small groups or companies hunting for insects on or near the ground as they always do at such times. It was interesting to see warblers, Emphidonax, chiv grosbeaks, tanagers etc. hopping about together on the oak leaves with their feathers so ruffled up that their bodies looked like animated bundles of cotton wool. Keeping on I soon came to the chickadee's nest found April 29. Peeping down into the hole as soon as my eyes became accustomed to the dim interior light, I discerned the ♀ sitting on the nest her feathers so ruffled that it was impossible to make out the relative position of the different parts of the body. The bright little black eye did however shine out conspicuous showing where the head was. No amount of tapping or rattling on the outside of the stump could induce her to come out but when I finally ripped off the bark laying bare the nest she left her treasure and lighting near by commenced an angry plaint which brought up her mate, and later another individual of the same species. The male came up very

1876.
(May 23) clon lighting within two feet of my head but after I began to appropriate the nest and contents the trio departed in apparent disgust & I did not see them again. When the sun came out, birds began to sing though not very finely. Kept on to Concord collecting by the way and taking the 4.50 train home with 28 birds all (including two Cotyl. riparia) shot with the pistol.

Birds note: Emp. flaviventris, abt.; E. traillii, on; Hel. chrysoptera, yes. abt.; Contopus borealis, on; L. cerinata, two last year.

Saw only two tanagers and three grosbeak all of which I secured. Saw three Hel. chrysoptera and got one. Also bagged E. traillii one; E. flav. 2, T. aliciae one, D. maculosa, two etc. D. maculosa was very numerous, as was also D. striata, Myiod. canadensis and Emp. flaviventris. Of the latter I must have seen and heard at least fifteen different individuals. Turdus aliciae was also quite abundant; I saw also one T. swainsoni; the former species has been the more abundant of the two this season. The E. traillii I shot on a hill top which was sparsely crowned with yellow pines. It was feeding on a large worm which it held under its foot & beat with its bill like a vireo. Many of the E. flaviventris were whistling. I found most of them in dark swampy thickets but a few were in high oak groves. Watched an oven bird building; the carried a enormous mouthful of leaves each time. The nest looked as if nearly finished. Started a pair of woodcock together in Hobbs. Could find no nest or young. They rose with a heavy whirring as

Lord is and is no way distinguishable from the more of the "rusty grackles" the males mottles with white etc. but more pretty; will come out of the woods as very green and pleasant.

Start for Upton Main

D. tigrina

Thursday 1876.
May 25 Clear and a fine day with high N.W. wind. Left Boston for the lake at 9 A.M. and arrived at Bethel at 5 P.M. Had supper at Barton's (Chandler's) and left Bethel at 6, arriving at the Lake house at Upton at 11 P.M. after a cold but pleasant drive. The roads were in so bad a condition that one was obliged to walk his horses nearly all the latter half of the way. Saw a single D. tigrina a few miles above Bethel and heard night hawks at Poplar tavern.

Friday
May 26 Clear and warm in the middle of the day. Very cold early this morning water freezing to the thickness of window glass. Spent most of the forenoon getting our things in order. Went out a little while in the woods behind the house and shot a fine ♂ Picoides Arcticus. In P.M. took a walk out to the Stone clearing and I shot five birds ~~the~~ a pair of P. arcticus, a ♂ D. Blackburniae and two D. maculosa. I shot a D. tigrina & a fine ♂ S. varius. The season is remarkably backward here not a leaf having started in the woods as yet but nearly all the birds seem to be here. Saw to day Dendroica tigrina maculosa virens Blackburniae coronata, ~~Myio~~ pusillus, Seiur. noveboracensis, S. varius. D. caerulescens, T. Swainsoni

Upton Maine

Lateness of season. List of bird that are here
Notes of Botaurus lentiginosus do of S. varia

1876. (May 26) The winter wrens were singing everywhere through the woods and much more constantly and energetically than I ever heard them before. They act as if they were breeding. Most of the warblers were silent nothing but D. coronata being heard. Nearly all were in little companies and kept low down among the bushes. Indeed I saw several D. Blackburniae this morning hopping around on the ground in the sheep pasture behind the house. There is still a good deal of snow in the woods in the hollows & cedar swamps and on the hill is a drift six feet deep in an open field. After supper paddled out on the lake and enjoyed a fine sunset. A bittern was uttering its uncouth notes on the floating isl near the house and another answered him from Stone's landing. We paddled up very near the first though we could not see him. He regularly began with ĕr-lump then poomp, ĕr-loomb five times in succession making six utterances in all. Occasionally a fourth was added as if he were not altogether satisfied with what he had accomplished. The first syllable has a watery swallowing sound, the second is exactly like a distant axe stroke on resonant wood while the last sounds like the echo of the stroke. The notes of S. varia are clear clear clear & a snarling cry somewhat like the mew of Nimus Carolinensis. Insects swarm, and frogs albreathing singing this evening. The lake is higher than it was

we have to go for. Saw several Chip. sparrows & heard a song sparrow. Picoides arctica was evidently breeding near the lake. The largest ovaries being not larger than a hair, & the largest of this species was 1 x 1 x 1/2 weeks

1876.
Saturday
May 27

Arrivals Pyranga rubra
Song of D. Blackburnia, Habits of winter wren

Clear and hot with W. wind. Off after breakfast with S. taking the Stow road. Found birds rather more abundant than yesterday both as to species & individuals, and most of them sang vigorously. Arrivals were Hel. peregrina ♂ & ♀, Thy. ludovicianus about, ~~Contopus borealis~~ ~~C. virens~~ on N. Castanea ♂, Thos. ducis positive several, ~~S. aurocapillus~~ ~~swainsi~~ Pyranga rubra 1 ♂. Shot about 12 birds the best G. trichas 1, D. Black. ♂ malis, Sp. varius 2 ♂, P. rubra ♂. The Blackburnians were very abundant and I frequently heard six or seven males singing at once. Their song is somewhat like Parula's and may be represented by the syllables tsip, tsip, se-se-se with the last three notes on a higher key than the first two. The vegetation took quite a start ~~this day~~ and this coming at sunset I noticed that the birches were beginning to look green. The winter wren is about the shyest bird in spring that I have ever tried to shoot. It is almost impossible to get within range of them or to see them when you do. I saw one go down between the logs of a rough bridge and going to the spot I walked out on the structure quietly and watching intently I soon spied the little fellow hopping about directly beneath my feet chasing spiders and picking an aquatic insect off the surface of a pool of water. The song of this species is one of the best one hears here. It is very like the notes of a music box in tone and mutatis delivery. Spent the whole P.M. skinning birds.

Arrivals. Kingfishers nest
Antrostomus vociferus. Lon. abbicoll. sings at night.

1876
Sunday
May 28 Clear and very warm with W. wind. I spent the day about the house fishing, a short sail out on the lake in the forenoon and a walk over on the Upper road just before sunset. Arrivals were D. striata ♀ seen. D. pennsyl. ♂ D. Blackburnian ♀ Antrostomus vociferus ♂ singing in the evening, Progne subis ♂ around Godwin's martin box, Vireo olivaceus ♂ singing Ampelis cedrorum flock of about 20 flying over high up. Heard a Sayornis fuscus singing near the house this morning but did not see him afterwards. The vegetation has taken a grand start to day. This evening noticed the moose wood (?) and wild cherry in bloom and found some beautiful Trilliums. Found a kingfishers nest in a bank of gravel ~~opened~~ by digging out a drain, but as both birds were flying about and freshly exhumed earth lay at the mouth of the hole I did not judge it time to investigate. This evening Godwin caught about twenty trout with worm and minnow. Night hawks were very numerous at dusk flying about through the door yard and old and a few booming high up in air. The thrushes were singing everywhere at sunset and I heard two T. pallasii ♂ in a particularly fine performance. A winter wren sings directly behind the house and once or twice I have heard him in a wood trap in the open near the barn.

I hear Lon. abbicolly at all times of the night

Minus Car Arrivals. G. Philadel, Vireo Plil.
Song of Hylotomus. Nesting of Sphyrapicus
Molothrus pecoris Butio Pennsylvan its cry etc.

Monday
May 29, 1876.

Rained hard all last night. Cloudy and sultry most forenoon. P.M. clear and cool with N.W. wind. Arrivals Vireo Philadel. 1♂; Geothlypis Philadelphia 1♂; Rhy. obtusus one; Ampelis cedrorum 5 ♀. Hydemales Ludovic. two ♂♂. D. castanea 5 ♀. E. flav. 5 ♀. E. borealis 5 ♀. Started out after breakfast taking the Stow path as usual. Shot 14 bird, the best Butio Penn, G. Phil. 1♂; Vireo Phil. 1♂; D. Black 3♂ D. castanea 2♂♂, E. flav. 2♂♂, Sp. varius ♀ etc. Birds were still more abundant to day and the different species are evidently beating for the breeding season. Thus I noticed that the Blackburnians had taken almost entirely to the tree tops and each male kept to his own domain and defended it against all comers. The G. Philadelphia which I shot started up from a log heap and in contrast with former observations jerked up its tail repeatedly like S. ticheas and uttered a note almost precisely like that of H. ajilis, a very harsh whink, whink. Heard a number of H. pileatus one of them very near to me! the song is almost undistinguishable from that of Colaptes but a trifle louder & shrillier & always ends in a falling tremulo. The ♀ Sp. varius contained 4 eggs that would shortly have been deposited and her oviduct showed plainly that some had already been laid. The Butio I shot from a tall stub at very long range. It uttered repeatedly a shrill piercing whistle like kree, ēēēē kree ēēē and sometimes simply kēēē kreēē, in the first with a decided accent on the last part of the utterance which also ran up the scale. The Vireo Phil. I shot near the house among wild cherry trees low down just was silent,

Heard several beautiful strains of the song of the Purple Grosbeak; saw neither the Grosbeak nor Tanager to-day. The birds are now quite thick on the Orchard. Heard Regulus satrapa twice to day for the first time. For Dragonfly like the Hylotomus pecoris this morning near the house. Saw a bird to Minus Car. G. ostivorus

Habits of Picoides - ♀ with eggs.
Porcupine Wounded Chordeiles

Tuesday May 30

Clear and cool. Off after breakfast with E. taking the Tyler road. Edward Harrington of Salem arrived by stage last night and started out with us this morning. Found the woods perfectly silent and apparently tenantless as far as birds were concerned, for the cold had ~~after~~ rendered them silent but as the sun got up overhead and the day became warmer they began to be heard and seen. Most of the warblers were collected in little companies in the sunny nooks. I took 14 birds the best Picoides Arcticus ♂, D. Blackburniae 4 ♂ 1 ♀, Ny. Insitiis ♂ & ♀. Harrington got a ♀ Picoides the mate I think of the one I killed. Her ovaries contained 4 eggs of large size and the oviduct showed conclusively that she had already laid. One egg had passed down nearly to the anus & was of full size but without a shell. I watched the ♂ a long time before firing. This woodpecker is by far the most active and energetic of any of the family so far as I have observed. His strokes on the tree trunks are very powerful and his whole bearing bespeaks vigorous energy. Just on the bog on the Tyler road I came upon a ♀ Junco that was building her nest. She worked very busily collecting large mouthfuls of fibers and arranging them in a hollow among some small firs. She in no instance went on ten feet away from the spot in her quest of materials. While standing here I chanced to look up and directly over my head stretched out on a horizontal branch near its extremity lay a porcupine. It seemed to be enjoying the warmth of the sunshine. In the tree was a willow

got on my 20 ft. ladder. I could just see the tail of the animal. I finally fitted the boat down and fastened it with stones & I then climbed up & carefully lifted the boat down at very imminent risk of losing it. We blazed a trail to the place & then I went back for a rifle & shot the porcupine as it was sitting motionless, by force of habit I made a mark on the spot where it was seen & I shall be able to find it easily.

New note of Sphyrapicus, Vireo Philadelphicus
Habits of the Night Hawk

1876.
Wednesday
May 31st

Clear with cool N.W. wind. Off after breakfast taking my boat and going out alone on the lake while S. & H. took the Tyler road. I shot 14 birds the best Picoides Arcticus ♀, Dend. Blackburniae 5 ♂. E. flaviventris 1, D. castanea 2 ♂; My. Canadensis ♂. Found two nests of Sphyrapicus varius both in high beech stubs at least 50 ft. above the ground and probably inaccessible. Heard a new note from this bird to day; it was a chattering cry analogous to the peculiar yew-wick, yew-wick of Colaptes but more run together and not so emphatic. Heard a number of D. castanea singing. This song is very uniform in different individuals and is almost undistinguishable from the feeble variation of S. ruticilla's song; it also resembles somewhat the cree cree cree of Regulus Satrapa. Redstarts are excessively abundant here and I notice that nearly all the males are adult birds, indeed out of hundreds that I have seen singing I do not now recollect a single immature individual. Quiscalus purpureus is quite abundant among the stubs and very tame, so much so in fact that it is perfectly easy to walk up within 15 yds. of them. I heard another Buteo Pennsylvanicus in the woods this morning its shrill whistle sounded quite plaintive in the distance. Have not seen a single Helminthophaga of either species or D. tigrina this week. Stone came in with a Vireo Phil. and Harrington killed another. Night hawks came about the house in unusual numbers in the evening & I killed two. They come sweeping in over a little garden patch in Mr. Abbotts and after sailing along like swallows near the ground they make a half circle & alight on the fresh loam. Sometimes as many as three or four would pitch down together. I watched them carefully and was much interested by their peculiar actions. When one lighted it would ~~sit~~ sit motionless for a moment with its neck stretched up to an astonishing length; then it bobbed its head up & down a number of times somewhat as Sandpipers will do. Then if all remained quiet it would make a short ~~[illegible]~~ and pick up an insect from the earth. They ran very quickly though awkwardly and frequently one would tumble over on its head & flutter awkwardly to regain its balance. They reminded me forcibly of ~~so~~ many toads; picked up insects in nearly the same way. They carried their tails raised like terns & the wing tips trailing. All that came to the garden are ♀s the ♂'s are meanwhile "booming" high up in the air over the woods.

Arrivals M. Lincolnii, Sh. crinitus
New note of Contopus borealis
Hooting of the barred owl. Chry. pinus

1876.
Thursday
August 1st. Clear and the warmest day we have had with not so much as a breath of air. Started off as usual in the morning with S. taking the Stony road and continuing on into the Ellinwood path. Shot 14 birds the best Melospiza Lincolnii ♀, Sh. crinitus ♂; D. Blackburniae 3, D. castanea 2; etc. Stony did not feel well and killed only one bird, a ♀ Sphyrapicus with a few red feathers in the throat. Arrivals were Turdus fuscescens 1, Emp. Traillii 1; M. crinitus 3, Mel. Lincolnii one (♀). Heard a new note from Contopus borealis, a low note it was I think as the male while producing it was hovering with quivering wings around his mate. It was a long continued chattering cry almost indistinguishable from the spring song of the ♂ Sitta Carolinensis. Of Myiarchus I saw three, two of them paired birds. They uttered the usual notes and were active. The M. Lincolnii hopped up from the side of the Stony road and was perfectly silent. I saw Chry. pinus every day in small flocks. The ♀ Picoides shot yesterday had the largest ovaries not exceeding in size No. 8 shot and apparently would not have bred for weeks. The ♀ Sphy. shot by S. today had laid all her eggs as determined by dissection. This evening S. & I took a moonlight sail out on the lake and enjoyed ourselves amazingly. We heard a Syrnium nebulosum hoot repeatedly. Its cry was whoo, whoo, whoo-whoo

Friday 1876.
June 2

Nest of Picus villosus; Wounded Sphyrapicus
Nest of H. Rostra
Song of the woodcock.
Found a nest of Turdus mig. 2 young half grown.

Clear and very hot with very light E. wind. Off after breakfast with E. taking the boat and paddling up to Stone's where we left her and going ashore took the Ellinwood path and shot there through the forenoon. I took 14 birds the best D. Blackburniae 4, D. castanea 2, Certhia Am. 1, Sphy. varius 2, Vireo solitarius 1 etc. I shot a very fine ♂ Sphyrapicus breaking the tip of his wing only. Upon picking him up he set up a perfectly deafening clamor screaming continuously and so loudly that he might have been heard a quarter of a mile off. This soon brought up a ♀ probably his mate, which I shot. In a few moments more, birds of all kinds came trooping up and startling in one spot I shot down three more. He was very fierce and spirited raising the beautiful feathers of his crown and hammering my hand with his bill so strongly as to nearly draw blood. The Certhia was a ♀ and dissection showed three eggs all larger than ○ and the oviduct so swollen that others must have already been laid. Saw two My. crinitus. Along this path woodpeckers formerly Hylotomus have made great havoc & I saw an old stump furrowed into the core the furrow 4 in wide & six feet long. Heard the only Boreas Gram. that I have seen here this year, on the Stone farm. Coming home found a nest of Picus villosus in a small stub, not more than 3 feet from the water. I hammered on it & the ♂ came out I heard young inside making a soft twittering but shall investigate further. Flipped out also a nest of Hirundo Rustica with 2 eggs & saw a Colaptes looking out of the hole. The hole of the Picus

Spent from 1:15 to 1:45 in examining the nest of the woodcock. It was found at the edge of a swamp in a little open place with a little water in it. The nest was a mere hollow in the ground with a few twigs & a few grass stems for a lining. The bird was very tame & would not leave the nest until we had touched it. We then saw that it was sitting on 4 eggs. The bird was very fierce & spirited & would not leave the nest until we had touched it. We then saw that it was sitting on 4 eggs. The bird was very fierce & spirited & would not leave the nest until we had touched it. We then saw that it was sitting on 4 eggs.

Trip up the lake for duck's nest.

Saturday June 3 Cloudy at sunrise clearing off at about 10 A. M. clear and very hot in P. M. with the lake as smooth as glass. Started off after breakfast on the steamer taking as guide one of the gang of river drivers that have been camped near the house, a fine looking intelligent man of about forty with a physique worthy of Hercules. Took one of Godwin's boats in tow and leaving the steamer at Moose point we struck into the flooded forest of stubs near Leonard's pond, and commenced a search for nests in general but duck's in particular. We hunted a long time in vain hammering on every stub that presented a likely looking hole, ~~The~~ and indeed the chief obstacle to success was the very "abundance of opportunities for nearly every tree was more or less riddled with holes the greater part of them woodpecker's but though many were new looking we could find no inhabited ones, Swallows nests indeed were plentiful enough but we did not stop to bother with any of them. Finally we saw a hole that looked very promising for a duck's nest and then enough at the first rap of the oar on the resonant trunk a lively scratching commenced inside the next moment a ducks head appeared in the hole then with a struggle her claws slipped over the lower edge and she launched into the air. I was both startled and surprised at the most though perfectly to be expected sight but recovering myself

1876.
(June 3)

Nest hole of Lophodytes cucullatus
Bucephala Nest of Dendrocopus
Halicetus, Bertha Ann Myiarchus etc.
immediately I sent a charge of No 3 gun
fire and marking her leaving flight
a short distance we paddled to the
spot & picked up a ♀ Loph. cucullatus.
Returning to the stub my man commenced
to swarm up when to my now excessive
amazement another scratching was heard
and another duck shot out of the same
hole. This time I find a little wildly
& probably missed as the bird went off
though it acted as if wounded. Continuing
his ascent with "great expectations" of
ducks eggs my man reached the hole
and looked in to find only emptiness
or more literally speaking a large cavity
with the bottom covered with damp
rotten wood. Post mortem examination
of the bird shot revealed the fact that the
eggs would not have been laid in less
than a week or 10 days. The hole had
undoubtedly been selected as a nesting
place. It was a natural cavity rather
in the side of the tree at the height of
about 15 feet above the water, running
down three feet with a diameter at its
mouth of about 10 inches. Whether the
second bird was the ♂ or not I could
not make up my mind; it looked very
like the first as it came out. Continuing
our search in & around the mouth of the
Megalloway river we found several likely
looking holes but no nests. While paddling
through the stubs a duck came flying
past very high up and giving us
plenty of "allowance" I fired and

, 1876.
(June 3.) killed him dead in mid air. She came down most beautifully turning three or four somersaults and striking a floating stick with such force that the sound echoed through the woods. Picking him up I found I had killed a fine ♀ Bucephala. Dissection revealed an egg near the opening of the oviduct, of full size but covered with skin only. From the small size of the opening & other evidences I judged that this was to have been the first egg & thirteen more in process of development lay among the ovaries. We saw also another Bucephala, a ♀, and found a nest of Dendrocopus pubescens in an old woodpeckers hole (Colaptes) with four fresh eggs. Saw other nest of this bird in similar positions but did not stop for them. Certhias were evidently breeding among these stubs as we saw several pairs and woodpeckers of different species were numerous. Also saw a Myiarchus crinitus and heard a Hylotomus. Saw several brown Haliaetus leucocephalus. Starting from here down the lake we paddled & rowed down to Haywards before we found anything of interest. Here we started a ♂ Sphyrapicus out of a hole in a tall stub and my guide declared that he could fell the tree which grew in the water 8 or 10 ft. deep without breaking the eggs & this he actually accomplished though the hole was at least 30 ft above the water & the tree came down with tremendous

Three nests of Sphy. varius

1876.

(June 3) force for upon cutting open the hole we found the eggs (three) all whole. I shot both birds and found the ♂ a so called var. nuchalis. The ovaries of the ♀ contained four more eggs of various sizes. This hole was bored in very hard "dry rotten" wood. It was 30 ft up, the orifice 1¼ in in diam & the nest cavity 12½ in deep, with a diameter of about 8 inches. The birds made a good deal of noise & were very tame. Continuing down the lake we found another nest of the same bird in an ~~=~~ 20 rods more oak at Ellinwoods landing. This hole was lower than any that I have seen, not over 15 ft above the water & my man succeeded in climbing to it and bringing down the nest & 3½ fresh eggs in safety. This hole I could not measure but it was about 12 in. deep. About a mile below this we found a third nest in a very tall stub at least 50 ft up and after some ten minutes skillfull work with the axe the tree came thundering down. In this nest we found two broken eggs the height of the fall having proved too much for them. This hole was 1 1/16 in in diam at mouth with a perpendicular depth of 16 inches but the wood was somewhat softer than in either of the other trees. The ~~stub~~ at Ellinwoods' was the only one that I ever saw that did not contain a number of holes. In both of those that we cut down there were at least five or six ~~finished~~ nothing holes

Nest of Botaurus lentiginosus
" " Colaptes auratus

1876.
(June 3) and probably half of this were new. The bird evidently breeds in the same tree year after year but why it should make more than one hole in a season I cannot imagine. The nest is very easily found as the birds seem to delight in flying out and in and have a habit of clinging just below it for many minutes at a time looking in. In this last case I noticed that the bird had to struggle violently to get out. Saw ~~to da~~ coming down still further we landed on the further floating island in front of Stone's and beating about through the bog blueberry bushes I soon started a ♀ Bittern (B. lin.) off her nest. She did not rise until I was within four feet of her. The nest was small & flat and composed entirely of dead twigs & was placed on the dry ground among the thickest bushes. The eggs were 5 in two with scarcely formed embryos the remainder fresh. The bird croaked as she rose and voided her excrement entirely over one of the eggs. She flew directly off out of sight & did not return. Near the house my guide cut down a short birch stub containing a Colaptes nest. We found only two eggs in the cavity & one of these broken. Depth of hole 12 in. Saw during the day a number of small birds but nothing uncommon. Heard a ♂ Dolichonyx singing at Stone's & a number of Hydrochelidons at different points. D. castanea & D. Black. common everywhere. Heard one B. Penna

Nests of Turdus mig. Habits of the night hawk
Nest of Reiniscalus in a fir.

Sunday
June 4 Cloudy & rained at intervals all day. Quite cool. Spent the entire day in the house writing etc. Beanda & Hel. perigrina in the rains. H. found four nests of Turdus mig. three of them with young and a nest of Reiniscalus pus. in a ~~fir~~ fir among the rains with 2 eggs. He went up to the Shire "yesterday with a rain drive as guide but did not get anything except a last years nest of Turdus Swainsoni with two whole eggs faded & stained nearly beyond recognition. This evening I went over into Abbotts garden to see the night hawks come in. Sitting down on the edge of one of the beds I had been there but a few moments when they commenced pitching down on the freshly stirred earth. This time I had a much better chance to observe them that the other night as they were much nearer to me. They kept constantly coming & going but so short a time did ~~each~~ remain that not more than three were on the ground together. As before they seemed to be feeding on insects but if this is their object I cannot imagine why the males do not come too for only females are ever seen about this spot. I heard a new note from one which I startled by moving suddenly a clucking whuk, whuk. Several times they were within six feet of me and I noticed that I could move a good deal sometimes without their noticing me. Their gait when walking slowly is as toddling & weak as possible.

Second nest of Botaurus lentiginosus

1876.
Monday
June 5 - Cloudy nearly all day & rather cool. Spent the first part of the forenoon writing letters. Started off in my boat at 10.30 and paddled up as far as Stone's where I landed on the floating island and began a search for bitterns nests. I had hunted but a short distance when brushing about with the paddle among the low blueberry bushes I felt a tap on its blade. Upon looking at the spot my surprise was great to see a ♀ bittern sitting on her nest within a yard of me. She was so puffed out that the nest was entirely concealed and indeed nothing of her shape was visable excepting a mass of brown plumage and the head & bill projecting from between the shoulders: not a particle of the neck was exposed. After looking at her for some time I poked her with the blade of the paddle when she struck at it forcibly with all the feathers of her crown raised. I actually tried for some time in vain to push her off the nest by main force and finally getting the blade behind her head I pushed it down on the ground so firmly that she gasped for breath when it slipped off and she took off the nest in silence and flew off to the main shore. There were two egg only and I left them in hopes of her laying more. There was not a trace of fear in her bearing - only a fierce determination. This nest had some dry grass in its composition like the one found Sat. it was on the highest & driest part of the island but unlike it

1876.
(June 5.)

Swallows playing with feathers
Hil. peregrina gen. ac. Lofia Ann
Pyranga rubra Peresorens Can.

It was so roofed over by the natural disposition of the low bushes that I somewhat doubt the birds ability to rise through them & this may have accounted for his unwillingness to do so. She had evidently entered her bower by stooping under the the interlacement of twigs. Came suddenly upon an Ardea herodias which gave me a good flying shot & I doubled him handsomely. He was not in very fine plumage. I noticed that the swallows (H. bicolor) came trooping to the spot where he fell and went to playing with the feathers that were floating on the surface. Visited the H. bicolor's nest found Friday (and sipped from) and found the ♀ sitting on 5 eggs. Harrington came in with 3 Hal. peregrina I heard a number & there was evidently a general arrival to day. Storm shot a Peresorens Can. and saw a flock of six or seven. We also saw a ♀ Ectopistes In P. M. I went out on the lake again and paddled up to Brown's clearing, sailing back. Found a nest of H. bicolor with 3 eggs & shot a Contopus borealis. Found also a nest of Colaptes in an old hole while in the very next tree was a mighty loud new born. She ♂ was there and came out at my thumping but I could not reach the nest. Coming back I heard two Bubo Virginianus hooting at frequent intervals, many times answering one another. This was at 5.30 P.M. with the sun shining bright. Saw also several

1876.

(June 5)

Song of the woodcock

Bubo Virginianus its hooting by day

Breeding of Chordeiles Pop

Buteo Penn. and two Fauvirostra Am.
the first I have noticed. I heard a Pyranga
singing this morning. The usual hoot of
Bubo is hoo, hoo-hoo, hoooooo, hoo. Stone
went over to B. Brook with Godfrey to visit
some bear traps and came in with
a fine ♂ Chordeiles which he started
off a single egg. He did not see the ♀.
The locality was a little clearing grown
up with low bushes. The egg lay on a
mound which was nearly surrounded
by water. After supper this evening I
went up behind Abbotts to hear the woodcock
sing. He commenced his vibrating note
as usual and soon after went up into
the sky when for the first time I saw
him through the whole performance.
After he commenced to descend he
gave a number of wing beats in succession
with pauses between as noted in 1874. When
lower down and commencing his "song" he
commenced darting zig zag with arrow
like speed following lines something like
Z and at each swoop came the liquid
gush of song. In this way he descended till
nearly to the ground when with set wings
he pitched like lightning to the spot
where he had risen. I must confess that
each burst of melody so exactly corresponds
with each swoop of the zig zag that it
really seemed as if his wings produced
the sound but it is hardly to be
believed that such notes could be produced
in that way. At 100 yds distance nothing
could be heard beyond the whistling of his
wings. I think the ♂ Chordeiles swoops

Above one has written note

♂ & ♀ D. tigrina
Breeding of Puiscalus & Hirundo Bicolor
Nest of Mel. melodia.

Monday
June 6 Cloudy with light rain through the forenoon. Harry Bailey arrived last night. After breakfast I dug out my kingfishers nest but found it empty though the hole was completed. It went in three feet ~~turning~~ inclining slightly to the left and ended in an oblong chamber at least 12 in long by 10 in wide. The birds were about and I stopped it up in such a way that I think they will not desert. At 10 A. M. the rain held up a little and I started out down Tattey the Stone path. Shot 7 birds, a ♂ G. Phil. D. tigrina ♀; D. Blackburniae ♂; My. Can ♂ & Ch. pelagica ♀. Heard a D. tigrina singing. Found two nests of C. Swainsoni just finished. In P. M. Bailey & Harrington went out on the lake in my boat and found two nests of Lois. Inquirens 4 eggs each, one set fresh the other nearly hatched. Both these nests were built in dead spruce trees among the branches & were of the usual bulky substantial character in contrast with the ones placed in stubs. They also found one in a stub with young & a nest of M. melodia built in an old robins nest & containing 3 eggs 6 or 7 days in. I went out among the stubs in my boat after supper and found three swallows nests. Two of them one with 4 & one with 5 eggs I took. The former was built in an old downy woodpeckers hole and the eggs were placed on a few feathers & chips only. The latter was built in a large natural cavity and was a beautiful structure. The birds are very bold & dive down within a few inches of one's head snapping their bills. I also found a grackles nest containing young in an inverted hole of a dead tree ~~amongst~~

second nest I shot and found that they were ~~gray~~ the egg part being fair with the exception that the abdomen was thickly feathered

Three nests of Sphyrapicus varius
Nest of Colaptes
Perisoreus in young plumage.

1876.
Thursday
June 8

Forenoon clear, clouded up at noon and rained most of P.M. Took the steamboat in the morning with H. Bailey and stopping at Moll's rock took "Ninety" Warrington as guide from a party of river drivers. Leaving the boat at the inlet we rowed up Rapid river as far as "Cedar Stump". Here we cut out a nest of Sphyrapicus with 5 eggs (5 days in,) which we had been told of by the Capt. of the boat. Starting down river from here we spent most of the day between "the Stump" & the lake hunting the stubs carefully and getting three more sets of Sphyrapicus' eggs. The nest at Cedar Stump was about 8 ft. above the river in the very heart of a live poplar tree. The birds had selected a spot where a knot had been and bored straight in for some three inches then down about 12 in. The next nest was in a dead birch about the same height up and contained 7 eggs, two of them perfectly fresh, the other five incubated some 5 or 6 days. We saw only one pair of birds about the place. The nest was some 40 ft up in a very rotten birch stub. "Ninety" neared this with some risk: it contained six eggs nearly fresh. The last was in a birch stub about 15 ft up: it contained six eggs perfectly fresh. Besides these we found two more which were inaccessible but one of which we shall cut down. Saw a pair of Mergus Am. which evidently had a nest but we could not find it. Also saw a Bonasa that apparently flew from a stub but could not find this either. Saw a pair of Sciurus hudsonicus and a small flock of Perisoreus Can among them several young in full feather but in the peculiar lead colored plumage. Found a

nest of Hirundo bicolor in a stub, lined with feathers & Bobs. You of the Sphyrapicus nests, taking everything down, not the Stone of Warrington's nest of Colaptes, which we cut down for a nest of Perisoreus and got eggs & fresh eggs. We also cut down the nest of the Hirundo.

Trip up the lake.
Luiscacus Catching frogs
Nest of Sharpshinned hawks found

1876.
Friday
June 9

Clear and very hot. Thm. 95° at noon. Took the steamer after breakfast with "Ginty" as guide. Left the steamer at Pine point and paddled into the cove where we ended up yesterday. Cut down a tall stub with a nest of S. physoides but all the eggs were broken by the fall. The hole was the smallest that I have seen yet and the bird had to struggle violently to get in. In this same cove found a nest of P. virens with young. It was found in a birch stub about 15 ft. up. The old birds made a great racket. We got two nests of H. vociferus with 4 & 5 eggs respectively. The former was very handsomely lined with feathers from the adult ♂ hooded merganser. From here we struck across into Lonards pond and hunted a long time for nests about the mouth of the Magalloway, but did not take a single nest. Saw several C. americana among the stubs where they were evidently breeding among the stubs. Finally a thunder shower coming up we rowed over to Moll's carry where we took shelter in a camp of river drivers. After the shower passed I hunted about in the woods a little and found a nest of D. maculosa which the ♀ was working upon. It was built in a spruce sapling about 9 ft up & was perhaps half finished. Saw a Luiscacus seize a small frog which he beat forcibly with his bill and finally took off probably to his nest. Saw numbers of Chordeiles out over the lake feeding & booming & hawking for

nipts in the fall light of the morning sun.

Nest of Botaurus Curvirostra Am.
" " Coronata
" " Pyrannus bor.

1876.
Saturday
June 10 Cloudy in forenoon. Clear in P.M. H. & Purdie came last night and thence now five of us scientifics here. After breakfast Purdie & I hunted through the savins & I found a nest of D. coronata with three eggs & one of D. maculosa nearly finished. The former I left. Neff went out on the lake & I visited the nest of Botaurus found last Monday but it had evidently been deserted as no more had been laid and the original two were cold. On our way back found a nest of Buteo lineatus in a stub with one egg probably a second laying of one of the birds that Bailey robbed. Harrington & Stone found two nests of Agelaeus phoeniceus with 4 eggs each on the floating island. The Colaptes that I robbed Thursday was in her hole & will probably lay again. I found also a nearly completed nest of Pyrannus in the tip of a broken stub. Spent the whole P.M. in blowing up my eggs and packing skins.
The woods are now in full leaf and the plum trees in the garden are shedding their blossoms.
No signs of H. pugnina or D. tigrina as we have not heard them anywhere for several days. The moosewood has shed its blossoms and the trillium is gone by.
The warblers are all building now

Saw a flock of Geese. Am. finding many the consequence that this near the house

Nests of D. coronata — Geoth. Phil.
" " T. Swainsoni — Picoides Arc.
" " T. fuscescens — Chry. pinus
" " D. maculosa
" " Zon. albicollis

Sunday June 11 Clear and excessively hot. I spent the forenoon hunting the "Parids" with Bailey and found a nest of D. coronata with four perfectly fresh eggs. It was built in an isolated spruce sapling in a little glade & was about 10 ft up. The ♀ was sitting and when I drove her off her chirping brought up the ♂ which had been singing some 30 yds off. I also took the nest found yesterday with three eggs also fresh. They had evidently been deserted as they were wet & cold. This nest was in a precisely similar locality but was a little lower in the spruce 7 ft up & 5 ft from the top of tree. I also found a nest of T. Swainsoni with 2 eggs. It was in a fir sapling near the road & about 6 ft up. The ♀ was not seen. Also found a nest of T. fuscescens in the thicket of the Parids, built in a spruce some 4 ft up. The ♀ was sitting on 2 eggs & late in the P.M. Bailey visited it & found a third egg laid. B. started a Zon. albicollis from an empty nest under a fallen spruce top. After dinner we all went out again taking the Stone road. I visited my T. Swainsoni nest found on the 6th & found the ♀ sitting on 4 fresh eggs. She allowed me to nearly touch her before leaving the nest which she did in silence. It was built in a fir sapling some 7 ft up. I also found three newly completed nests of D. maculosa & Parids, Bailey & Harrington from seen found by B. contained one egg. All were built very low in fir shrubs & not one 2 ft up. This morning a ♂ G. Philadelphia was singing behind the barn & I saw a Picoides Arcticus in the

Saw little else. This morning went up the woodcock brook but he only flew up a little & hid again in the bushes. Bailey found a Bay breasted Warbler's nest with 4 days' eggs. Varied Thrush in the woods about the house. Little comparatively not heard any yet.

Nests of D. coronata — Hal. pusgrina
" " Zon. albicollis — " rufescilla
" " T. Swainsoni — P. graminous
Monday " " " Pallasi

June 12 Cloudy and rather cool. Started off with Stow after breakfast taking the Pylon road. Found nothing except a newly finished nest of T. Swainsoni until I reached the Pylon farm. Then I heard a Hal. pusgrina singing and shot him. A few minutes after I heard another but did not succeed in getting him. Keeping along the edge of the farm I heard dozens of Hal. rufescilla singing. I never saw them so abundant here before. My first find was a nest of D. coronata with 4 fresh eggs. The ♀ was sitting and slid off as I reached my hand up. The ♂ was singing about 100 yds. off. This nest was in a spruce sapling some 7 ft up & 5 from the top of tree. I afterwards found another about 15 ft. up, also with the ♀ sitting on 4 eggs. This latter was in second growth woods the former in an isolated tree in an old field. I next found a nest of Zon. albicollis with 4 fresh eggs. The ♀ was sitting and did not move until nearly trodden on. The nest was sunk in the ground on a slope among scattering firs and was almost entirely concealed by last years ferns that arched over it. Among these same firs I found a nest of Sp. socialis with 3 fresh eggs. In the open field was a ♂ Pas. savanna singing. They are abundant on the hillside pastures. Also heard a Poecetes gram. on the Pylon road. Returning I left the path on the birch knoll and happened to almost step on a nest of T. Pallasi. The ♀ glided off under my feet. The nest was sunk in the ground and canopied by the branches of the little fir shrubs. The eggs were 4 & had been in about 5 days. Did not go out in P.M. Bailey found my nest of T. Swainsoni 1 with 3 – 4 with 1 ♂ & 1 empty.

Finding a nest of Zon. albicollis in a fallow field with 4 fresh eggs also a nest of Sp. socialis containing 3 fresh eggs but he broke too in getting them out. (Spiers with 5 fresh eggs.)

Nests of T. Swainsoni - unique situations
" " Junco hyemalis
Dolichonyx orizivorus
My. ornatus

1876
Tuesday
June 13

Clear and hot. Took the boat with Stone after breakfast and paddled up the lake going ashore & hunting for nests at frequent intervals I found two nests of T. Swainsoni. The first was built almost exactly like a wood thrush's on a dead birch prong some 4 ft. up & contained one eggs. The second was placed in so far as I have observed a perfectly unique situation. It was built under the roots of a fallen tree in a hollow scooped out of the earth that had adhered to the same. The general aspect of the situation was almost exactly similar to that of Social Say. fuscus' nests that I have seen in similar places. The bird did not fly off until I placed my hand on a root over her head. The nest contained three eggs which I took. I next visited the nest found at the entrance to the Stony brook Sabbath Sunday & took it with 4 eggs. Also took my T. fuscescens in the "swim" with 3. Purdie came in with a nest of T. Swainsoni 4 eggs. After dinner H. Bailey & I drove down to below Brown's tavern to look up a nest of Junco that Godwin told us of. He found it built most curiously in a hole in the edge of a bank. The hole extended in & down at least 6 inches. The bird sat very close but disappeared after flying off. I afterwards found a nest of T. Swainsoni with 4 eggs. It was built in a very slender Spruce sapling at least 20 ft. up. The bird sat close & contrary to the previously universal rule came up as I was taking the eggs and repeatedly sat within 4 ft of my head uttering occasionally her "pink, pink."
Found another on the side of the road about 8 ft up & with 2 eggs. Heard a Dolichonyx on the hill, also a

Myiarchus near the store. Not a single R. leg. or H. fur. heard this P.M.

Bubo Pennsylvanicus. Tetrao Canadensis
Nest of E. flaviventris.

1876.
Wednesday
June 14

Cloudy all day with frequent showers in P.M. Went over on the Sylva path with Stone in the morning and hunted hard for nests but found nothing exciting a M. melodia in Abbott's field. In was sunk in a hollow in the ground in a clover field. The ♀ fluttered off almost under my feet but like most of the birds here showed little subsequent concern. There were 5 eggs which had been incubated about 8 days. Harrington found a nest of this bird yesterday with six fresh eggs. This is a larger number than I have heard of before. I shot a very fine adult ♂ Bubo Pennsylvanicus. The pair rose from the ground on the edge of Abbotts field and lit on dead stubs. I walked up slowly to within about 40 yds of the ♂ and shot him. The ♀ flew a short distance only and I might have secured her too if I had had another heavy charge with me. As it was I shot 2 at her and failed to kill. Both birds kept up their shrill whistling cry as I approached them. I often see them sailing high up in the sky in pairs uttering almost invariably this unmistakable note. The testes of the ♂ were not larger than a ○. The stomach was filled with bones of small mammals and the remains of Coleoptera. Heard a single H. pugnax on the Sylva road. Just after entering the woods from Abbotts field I spied a fine ♂ Tetrao Canadensis in the path. The next moment he rose with a fable flutter & lit on an alder low down. I watched him some time and noticed that his red comb over the eye was very conspicuous; that he held his tail high with

The birds were very wary and cautious. Yesterday I had a very distant view of a bird which I took to be a Bubo Virginianus. I was quite certain that it was not a B. Virginianus but could not get near it to satisfy myself. I shot at it twice with the Bird Gun. I was very sorry to miss it, as it was the first I had seen since I left Cambridge. I shall try to get a good chance at it on my way home. I shall be very careful to be sure of the species before firing. I saw a Bubo Virginianus in Mass. in April 1875 & I know the sound of its cry. I shot a Bubo Virginianus in Mass. in April 1875 & I know the sound of its cry.

1876.
Thursday
June 15

Hooting of the barred owl.
Nests of D. maculosa Nest (old) D. Blackburnia
" " T. Swainsoni
" " Picus pubescens

Clear and very hot. Thm. 85°. Started up the lake in the boat with Stone after breakfast and landed on the left hand shore. Found D. castanea and D. Blackburnia very abundant at this place and climbed to a number of their nests. Most of them were evidently last years nests of D. castanea but I found one that was very probably the last years nest of D. Blackburnia as it was totally unlike any warblers nest that I have seen. Found here a deserted & thoroughly soaked nest of T. Swainsoni with 2 eggs. Also found another near it which I took to be the second nest of the same bird. It was built on some twigs that branched out from the trunk of a large birch some 15 ft. up. Keeping further up the lake shore we landed again and here I found a nest of D. maculosa with one egg & two nests of T. Swainsoni, the first with one the second with 2 eggs. Also shot a ♀ Sphyrapicus after watching her catching flies for some time. Heard a barred owl hoot very distinctly near the shore; his note was who-o, who-o, who-o-hoo, who-o, who-o, who-o-hoo-ah. Took a nest of Vireo which was very prettily placed under some scales of bark that had peeled off a dead stub.

After dinner went up on the left bank of Cambridge river and found two nests of T. Swainsoni, the first with four eggs built in a fallen tree top about 2 ft. high; the second with three eggs in a white cedar at least 15 ft. up. Found also a nest of D. maculosa with the ♀ sitting on 4 fresh eggs. It was built in a fir sapling about 4 ft. up. Returning to the house I started out again and hunted the woods above Godwin's field finding another nest of D. maculosa with the ♀ sitting on 4 fresh eggs. Harrington got a nest of Picus pubescens with 3 fresh eggs.

Nests of T. Swainsoni
" " D. maculosa
" " S. noveboracensis

1876.
Friday
June 16 Clear and very hot. Thm. 82°. Off after breakfast with Stone taking the Spider path. First visited the nest of T. Swainsoni found Monday and found the ♀ sitting on 3 eggs. This nest was built in a fir about 8 ft. up. Next found a nest of D. coronata just completed, a most elegant affair, lined very handsomely with feathers. The ♂ was singing about 100 yds. off. Next found a nest of D. maculosa built in a spruce sapling about 4 ft up. The ♀ was sitting on 4 fresh eggs and allowed me to nearly touch her with my hand before flying off, when as is the almost invariable custom of all the birds here, she disappeared & did not show herself again. On the way back I struck through a cedar swamp and happened to spy a nest of T. Swainsoni in a white cedar some 10 ft. up. The ♀ was sitting and I obtained a sufficiently good view of her to see the yellow ring around the eye and be sure of my identification. I mention this because the set of 4 eggs is unlike any we have previously taken, the eggs being nearly if not quite as large as robins' and very heavily and handsomely blotched and spotted. Stone also took an olive backs with eggs which had been in several days. In the P. M. visited a nest of T. Swainsoni found Monday near the Stone path and took it with a set of 4 eggs. This nest was built on the prong of a feather spruce some 6 ft. up. Barbey took nest of S. noveboracensis 3 ft.

Parties left this morning for Magalloway.

Trip on the lake. Unique situation of nests of E. Vaillii et D. maculosa. Nest of Butte Penn. My. cruentus. D. striata

Saturday June 17

Clear and warm with strong S. W. wind. Started out on the lake with Harrington after breakfast taking dinner with us. Paddled up to B. point where we landed and hunted the island but found nothing. Then sailed across to Browns channel where we spent most of the forenoon. Here I found a nest of T. Swainsoni about 8 ft up in a fir, the ♀ sitting on Eggs. I also found a nicely completed nest about 10 ft. up in a spruce which from its general appearance I took to be that of E. Vaillii though the situation was certainly unique. From here we sailed out to the cove behind "300 acre island" where we saw the boat in under some overhanging trees and took dinner and a comfortable post prandial smoke. Then went ashore and hunted the woods long and carefully. I finally spied a nest on the horizontal branch of a spruce in the deep wood and at least 25 ft. up. Throwing up a stick the bird came off and I thought myself booked for a prize but to my infinite disgust the parent turned out to be a ♀ D. maculosa. Harrington kindly secured the nest for me with 4 fresh eggs. The nest was quite typical but the situation certainly unique though we afterwards climbed to an old nest in a similar situation that was undoubtedly the domicile of this species. I also found a good looking hawks nest in the fork of a birch some 50 ft. up but as no birds were about we did not climb to it. It belonged probably

To B. Pointed anchor. I heard a Ch. Virginiana morning but it was quite late before we got up. Sailed all the way home with the wind. Heard a great variety of sparrow song. Saw in a stub near the nest of T. Swainsoni. Heard Bartram's Vireo as they are fully as common as Solitary Vireo

1876.

Nest of Myiod. canadensis - Nest of Seiurus Noveb.
" " D. maculosa
" " Ty. Carolin. Swallow & merganser.

Sunday June 18 Clear and warm with heavy shower in P.M. Started off in the boat with Bailey after breakfast and sailed with the wind blowing almost a gale over to Sargent's clearing where we landed and spent several hours hunting for nests but without finding anything of any value. I started a very large cock among spruce saplins, and found a cedar bird's nest just commenced. Empidonax Traillii was abundant here in thickets of water willow. Returning to the boat pretty thoroughly disgusted we set sail for home but when opposite Brown's I spied a king bird's nest in a stub & saw in to examine. Found it contained three eggs, and as we had taken the trouble to land we concluded to hunt a little more when scarcely had we started into the woods than Bailey saw across the nest of My. can. It was placed most beautifully in a hole in a dry mossy bank, the hole extending in about six inches and the entire nest & contents overhung by a green roof of moss. The ♀ was sitting on 4 fresh eggs & flew off when B. was within about 3 yds. of her. The locality was a little mossy glade in the midst of heavy woods, and overshadowed by one or two large trees. Landing again near home we ate lunch and I took three nests found June 15th. 2 of T. Swainsoni, one 3 & the other 4 eggs, & D. maculosa 4. Here I found a last years nest of Seiurus Nov. Bicol. exactly like the one of Myiodioctes just described. It had one addled egg which I think I can save. Hunting about in the woods awhile I found a nest of D. maculosa in a spruce sapling about 7 ft. up. The ♀ was sitting on 4 fresh eggs. Bailey found an olive back with 4. While here we started a ♀ Hospho. Cyanellatus from among the stubs and I was much surprised to see a ♂ Vir. bicolor start off with her, and rapidly overtake her flying in full flight as he would have a chance.

Thursd. It is but fair to state that the (the ninth) was a very bad one, wind blowing almost a gale, rain in the morning & afternoon. Birds did not sing nearly as much as usual. The finch was not heard at all, & the fly catchers also very frequently.

Nest of Dend. caerulescens (?) Song of Chry. pinus
" " " maculosa
Environ. Am

Cloudy all day with heavy showers in P.M. Bailey Stone & Harrington went up the lake on the boat as the captain gave a free excursion to all who chose to go. I started out alone after breakfast taking the Stone path. Visited first a nest of D. maculosa which contained two eggs three day ago and found the ♀ sitting. Although the number had not been increased. Found after a most laborious search two more nests, one of D. maculosa with 1 egg. One of C. Swainsoni with 4 eggs. I hunted long and hard for the nest of D. caerulescens in a clearing where two males are constantly singing. Finally among the most impenetrable log heaps on the edge of the woods I found a last years nest most cunningly placed among gray Spanish moss and supported by the twigs of a fallen & now dead spruce top, at the height of perhaps 8 ft. This nest was evidently a Dendroica's and I am very sure that it was originally the handiwork of D. caerulescens. One egg partly broken remained within. Chrysomitris pinus is daily becoming more abundant. They are now exclusively in pairs and I heard the ♂ sing repeatedly this morning. The song is strikingly like that of C. tristis but perfectly distinguishable and decidedly inferior. Heard Environstes Am. flying this morning. The musquitos are almost unendurable in the woods and bank weeds & raspberry bushes are increasing so that nest finding is becoming daily more difficult. Purdie returned from Magalloway this evening. He found birds less plenty there than here. Myiarchus was rather common there.

Habits of Hylotomus
Geothlypis Philadelphia

Tuesday
June 20 Warm with heavy thunder showers at intervals all day, which kept the woods wet and prevented us from finding any nests. Stone & I got out in the boat a little while in the forenoon and shot a few birds. I heard a Hylotomus calling near the shore at Pearlys brook and paddling in I saw it fly from one stub to another. Landing I walked up in an open field to within 40 yds and shot it off the tree. It fell wounded and while coming down uttered its usual laugh. Upon picking the bird up I found it a ♀ in remarkably fine plumage. Dissection showed that it had not laid any eggs this season and moreover that the largest ovaries were not greater in size than No 10 shot. From observation also I should judge that these birds were not breeding or even preparing to breed as yet. Their motions while climbing up the tree trunks are identical with those of the smaller Picidae. Their flight is however totally different and very peculiar. It is performed on an even plane with very heavy wing flaps and the speed ordinarily maintained is not greater than that of a heron. The bird while on wing resembles a crow as nearly as anything but the colors are of course quite different. I have heard only one note used. After shooting this bird I heard a Geoth. Phil. singing behind Pearlys barn, and going in pursuit soon espied him sitting motionless on a tall stub at least 50 ft. above the ground & singing at regular intervals. I had the good luck to secure him also. Did not get out in the P.M.

Nests of Syrannus Car. Vireo Phil (R)
" " Setophaga D. tigrina
" " D. coronata Cy. cyanea
" " Z. albicollis

Wednesday June 21 Warm with showers at frequent intervals all through the day. Off with Stone in the boat in the forenoon going as far up as Bowons clearing. Took a nest of Zeth. albicollis (with 4 fresh eggs) which I discovered half finished some time back. One of these eggs slipped through my fingers as I was taking it from the nest and fell to the ground, a distance of at least 15 ft. striking without the slightest injury on the leafy mould, ~~beneath~~. Took also a marked nest of D. maculosa near Stone's with 4 fresh eggs and three nests of Syrannus Car. two with 3 eggs each & one with 2 eggs. One set with 3 was incubated several days, and the other had contained the same number since the 18th though the eggs seemed nearly fresh. Found a nest of T. Swainsoni with 3 eggs incubated some 5 or 6 days & a deserted nest of D. coronata with 2 eggs wet & cold that contained embryos of small size dead & partially decomposed. This nest was built like the others in a small isolated spruce in a clearing near the woods. The ♂ was singing near. Two of the Syrannus' nests were built in the tops of hollow stubs, the jagged edges of the shell of the stub just rising above the rim of the nest & in places disclosing its exterior. The birds were very bold diving down at me like M. bicolor & snapping their bills. Heard a ♂ D. tigrina singing and also a new vireo song which I attributed with some doubt to V. Phil. The song was most like the red eye's but entirely distinct, an emphatic whit-tu-whit coming in regularly among the more

Similar results followed my visit to Cyanea nests. I did not proceed in Westbrook's case as I had a nest of D. maculosa with 4 fresh eggs & took 5 or 6 days. Stone & I drove to Bowdoin & spent the rest of the day in a fruitless search for Pendulinus. Brought in a nest of Z. albicollis with 4 fresh eggs near a clearing. Cedar birds are now extremely abundant & building everywhere.

Nest of Tyrannus Haliaetus diving for fish
Picus pubescens catching flies.

Thursday June 22 Cool but with heavy showers at intervals for an hour or so, all through the day. Stone & Bail. left for home this morning. Last night while coming in over the corduroy road behind the barn, I had an ugly fall striking on my right hip in the old place and this morning it was so painful that I did not dare to start out as usual, so took my boat and paddled down the lake landing at one or two places. I visited first a nest of Tyrannus found three days ago with 3 eggs and to day the ♀ was sitting on the same number so I took it. They surely I think lay more than that number here. Afterwards landed on the point where I found an Ohio back Sunday sitting close on and empty nest, and to day she was still again on the nest allowing me to nearly touch her before moving, though the nest contained but a single egg. Saw an immature Haliaetus, which has been hanging round this part of the lake for some time, plunge for a fish. He moved more deliberately than Pandion and struck ~~more~~ less heavily. In the afternoon went out with Godwin & Harrington to try for a finchere but did not have a bite. Saw a Picus pubescens launched out repeatedly after a large species of Diptera. He caught one or two on wing but showed much less adroitness than Sphyrapicus. A little later saw another pubescens following the same employment. Sphyrapicus apparently gets his subsistence now altogether in that way and is nearly as good a marksman as any of the Tyrannidae. The winter wren sings very little now - indeed not at all except early in the morning & at sunset. Young Buiscalus

Wm Stone and A. Pardee came across a brood of young O. umbellus just hatched apparently but following the mother through the woods.

Return to Cambridge

Friday
June 23 Clear and a fine cool day. Spent most of the forenoon packing. In P.M. took a ride over along the Errol road with Harrington who visited my Traill's flycatcher's nest for me but found it deserted and empty though evidently a new nest. It was placed in a Spruce at the height of about 10 ft. ~~But~~ The P.M. went over to my Colaptes's nest with Purdie and took from it six eggs. This is a second set by the same birds, which when the first laying was robbed, dug the hole down a foot deeper & commenced laying again. Purdie took 3 sets of olive backs but H. brought in nothing

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Saturday
June 24 Clear and almost cold at sunrise. Left the lake this morning for home, driving down to Bethel with Purdie in an open buggy. Took a nest of Y. Swainsonii on the edge of the road, with 4 eggs nearly hatched. This nest was the one that I found with 2 eggs June 13th. We heard 8 mourning warblers singing between the lake house and Poplar tavern. Most of them were between the notch and the latter place, and in one spot two were singing together within a few rods of each other. At Bethel we fell in with Prof. Morse of Salem whom P. was acquainted with. He had been taking altitudes with the barometer in & around the notch. The following are some of his determinations. Speckled Mt. 4,000 ft Saddle-back Mt. 3,700. Road in notch 1250 ft. Lake Umbagog about 800 ft. We arrived in Boston all right at 5.15 P.M.

Cistothorus Stellaris — Curvirostra Am

1876.

Aug 4 Am still closely confined by lameness occasioned by the importunate singing of the hip contracted at the lake. The weather through July was excessively oppressive — the very worst of dog day heat continued through three or four weeks without cessation. About July 25 there was a change & since then we have experienced a delightful season — uniformly cool nights with clear dry and not uncomfortably warm days. I have done no collecting at all, for obvious reasons, since my return home. In my daily drives have noticed but few facts worthy of record. Cistothorus Stellaris is now in full song and undoubtedly incubation is well under way with them. I hear them at all times of the day when I visit Block island meadows or the willow shaded road above Belmont. Hummers have become numerous within the last week and I doubt not that many of them are Northern birds. Nearly every night I hear night herons calling to each other as they circle over the Brighton marshes and on several occasions I have seen them leave Rd. Lo owls fairly at dusk. A few are also roosting in what is left of the old pine swamp. Very few birds are singing now. The cicadas are well under way and crickets commence singing several weeks since but have not reached their prime yet. This morning I saw three Curvirostra Am. which flew over one place calling loudly as they always do when on wing

Chordeiles popetue, Seiurus noveboracensis 373
Departure of D. æstiva

1876.
Aug. 27 Still hors de combat. Have done literally nothing the past month but read and smoke especially the latter. The last three or four weeks have been signalized by especially delightful summer weather and little else at least in my humble sphere. Saw the last D. æstiva Aug. 24. Contrinimus I missed from our garden some time before that date. Aug. 25 I saw two Seiurus noveboracensis in the Russell's garden. Aug. 19th a single Chordeiles popetue was seen in the swamps by R. Deane. Aug 25th I saw a company of six or seven flying S. over Fresh pond and on the evening of the 27th another loose body of ten or a dozen passing over Arlington heights for the S.

Hawks are beginning to appear. This day afternoon (Aug. 27th) I saw a ♀ Accipiter Cooperii near Brown's in Belmont and a Falco sparverius on the above named "heights". The latter glided past the buggy with surprising velocity and lit in a wild cherry tree near the road.

I hear the faint lisp of warblers these moonlight nights, but only occasionally, as the migrations have barely commenced among the Sylvicolidæ as yet. The crickets are still in full blast but the Cicadas I have not heard of late. If this race is seen it must have been an uncommonly short one this year.

Shore birds are reported as very scarce, but few good bags having been made. I have not fired a shot for over a month. I heard orioles in our garden on the 26th

Progne subis discors. The last Trochilus colubris. The last Hirundo horreorum et lunifrons et bicolor.

Aug. 30 C. J. Maynard found a flock of about a dozen Progne discors in a little pond on Shade St in Waltham, opposite "the Gore place" and killed two of them. He also shot a single E. minimus the last of the season.

Sept 6 This evening while at Maynards saw a number of Chordeiles popetue migrating S. and have seen them in greater or less abundance nearly every evening since Aug. 25. Generally they pass over rather high up keeping along pretty steadily but several times I have seen them when it had become quite dusky gliding ghost-like through the gardens & streets of the city keeping close to the ground.

Sept 7 Took a ride through Belmont this morning and shot two T. atrora near the road. Saw two Trochilus colubris probably the last, and at sundown this evening a large body of H. bicolor flying over our place in Cambridge towards the S.

Sept. 9 Went up to Concord this P.M. and drove down to Dam meadow with Jim to try Aspinwall's setter "Dash". The afternoon was cloudy with thick mist and I saw two H. horreorum and one H. lunifrons flying low down over the meadow among a number of chimney swifts. At the latter I saw a vast assemblage flying about over the town upon our return.

Gallinago Wilsonii, Botaurus lentiginosus
Pandion Carolinensis, Sterna Caspia
Chaetura pelagica et Chordeiles popetue

1876.
Sept 11 Took a drive up to Maynard's this P.M. On the way back saw about a dozen chimney swifts flying about over Watertown. Driving in to Bird's pond, Stow, who was with me, threw a stick into the rushes and its splash was responded to immediately by the piping of several rails. We also saw them at intervals topping the reeds and lighting again, and the place seemed nearly alive with them. While we were sitting in the buggy a bittern rose and after passing us within good range was making off over the tree tops when the report of a gun was heard and it fell broken winged to the earth. A German who had fired the shot immediately came forward and picked it up. He had shot two Dowc. discovs a few minutes before in one of the reed-girt pools of the place and seemed overjoyed at his good luck. Yesterday (Sunday) P.M. while driving by Fresh pond I saw a large fish hawk circling about Cambridge south. Very little change has as yet come over the face of nature and the country still bears the green voluptuous aspect of August. Every night during last week I heard the lisps of migrating warblers and on fine moonlight evenings the sky seemed thronged with them, scarcely a minute elapsing without the faint call being heard. Pur dis received a fine Sterna Caspia from Hingham on the 9th. It was a bird of this year. Jim shot 3 snipe on the 10th at Concord & saw seven others

Saw a single Chordeiles popetue this evening

Last Chaetura pelagica & Trochilus colubris

Sept. 13

Cloudy with slight mist. Took the 2 P.M. train for Concord meeting Jim at Porter's. Arriving at 6. we drove down to the snipe meadow. I had my pointer "Smuggler" this being the first time that he had taken the field. Humph. Buttrick joined us on the meadow. Eight snipe were started by the combined efforts of all three, and every bird of them was shot, only two shots being missed. I walked a few hundred yards in all and killed two snipe in two shots. The birds lay remarkably well and Jim's dog made a number of points. Leaving here we drove over to Hall's where Jim hunted for woodcock while I remained in the buggy. He started six in a very short time and killed two of them. Smuggler did with either to his credit or discredit. W.B. snipe 2

Sept. 14 Clear and a superb day. Started off with Jim's horse after breakfast and drove first down to Hall's where I tied and commenced to hunt for two woodcock which Jim left there last night. Found them very near the road and worked the pointer on them for some time but without getting him to point. Finally started one of them in some rather scanty bushes & shot at it, as I thought without effect but following on in the direction in which it flew, Smuggler suddenly came down handsomely on a staunch point and I found the woodcock lying dead a few feet in front of his nose. After this drove down to Lincoln and came back by Sandy pond shooting a few in. & Butts Pen. from the buggy & missing another. Saw a single Trochilus colubris & several Chaetura pelagica, the last

W.B.
Woodcock 1

1876
Tuesday
Sept. 19 Came down from Concord Friday Sept. 15th to make preparations for a longer visit there. This afternoon drove up Concord in my buggy taking Smyglie again and leaving my trunk to be sent up by Express. Arrived in the town at 6.30 P.M. meeting Jim on his way from the depot, and I was soon quartered comfortably in his room in the court house.

" 20 Cloudy all day with occasional drizzling rain. Drove down to Halls' in the forenoon and hunted over a good deal of ground, meeting H. Battrick near the turnpike, and hunting in company with him. His dog put up four woodcock in all of which I killed one that had been driven across the road and which I started among rather thick birches. Smyglie had no chance to point anything. He troubles me chiefly by his timidity in the cover as it is almost impossible to get him to range more than a few yards away from me.
Woodcock 1

Woodcock 1

" 21 Cloudy with frequent rain, in spite of which however I drove down to Halls in the forenoon and killed a very fine large cock, starting ~~two~~ in all. The one shot I first started among birches & hazel and drove it down into a swamp where I put it up again and by a very hard snap shot killed it. Saw and shot at, an Oporonis agilis. It rose from the ground among oak saplings on a dry hillside Woodcock 1

Vireo solitarius, D. caerulescens, D. maculosa
Parula Am.

1876.

Sept. 22 Clear and a lovely day. I called at the French last evening and made an appointment with Dan. to take a tramp together to day, so at 8 A. M. I drove over to his house and found him waiting for me. We drove directly down to Walls' and tying my horse spent three hours tramping through the surrounding woods. I must have walked over two miles which encourages me to hope that my hip is at last recovered though it pained me somewhat afterwards. We started only one game bird, a grouse which "Smuggler" pointed twice in good style but which rose just out of gun range each time. The dog worked very handsomely for a pup of his age, ranging quite freely. I started the Oporornis in the same place to a yard, where I found it yesterday and this time I killed it. It was as usual excessively fat. I also took Vireo solitarius, Mniotilta varia ♀ y. y, and D. caerulescens. The woods were literally filled with small birds, mostly D. striata. Spent the P. M. in making up skins. Saw a single D. maculosa in full pl.

Sept. 23 Clear and a lovely day. Starting off in my buggy at 9 A. M. I drove Bill Buttrick down to Lincoln where I left him to hunt back. Striking into a wood path from the Walden road I drove through it emerging into the Sandy pond road. Shot three D. striata spoiling two of them for specimens. Saw another D. agilis among birches on a dry hill top and shot at it but missed. Saw a cuckoo, Sp. unidentified. Spent the P. M. writing. Saw Parula Am. sev.

Wednesday
Sept. 27 Clear but windy and cool. I drove down to Cambridge with Jim on the afternoon of the 24th (Sunday) and stopped one night coming up to Concord Monday evening. Tuesday (Sept. 27) it rained in torrents so that I did not get out at all. This morning Dan and I started down river in my new boat which I purchased yesterday of James Farley for $14.). Taking lunch we spent the whole day going down as far as Carlisle bridge. On the way down I shot a grebe (P. podiceps) paddling up to it rather easily. It was a ♂ in the ordinary fall plumage but I am very sure that it was adult as the testicles were very large (○) for a bird of the year. Going ashore below the bridge we started a grouse several times and I fired one shot at it. Dash showed strong signs that he scented its track but did not point. Beat the Miller meadow pretty throughly but saw not a bird of any kind. On the way back went into a little piece of cover below Flints bridge and put up a grouse twice firing three times at him & killing the last shot. Saw two Circus Hud. during the day one of them an adult ♂. Saw also a number of Har. rufus, some Minus Car. and an Accipiter fuscus. The maples near the river are perfectly gorgeous with brilliant coloring, though those on the higher land have not turned much yet. The river meadows were very barren of bird life not even sparrows being abundant. In the evening took a moonlight ride with Jim.

Ruffed Grouse!

Oporornis agilis

1876.
Thursday
Sept. 28 Clear and a fine day with high wind. Off after breakfast with Dan. driving "Rufe North." Just after passing Jos. Smith's a grouse rose from an open field adjoining the road, and flew into a birch on the roadside. As the horse approached it, ~~again~~ it started again, and keeping down the road a few rods turned sharply into the yard of a farm house and actually alighted on the top rail of an old hay rigging that was standing in front of the farmhouse door. As we approached it a third time however it made across the road and alighted in a pine grove. Leaving the horse tied in the road we started after it but before we came to the place where we had marked it down, I flushed a fine large bevy of quail from among the underbrush of huckleberry bushes. I let them go without shooting and a few rods further on put up the grouse and shot at it cutting out feathers. Thinking it a good opportunity to break in "Dash" I followed the quail about for over an hour ~~refusing~~ making many fine shots at them, but finally when the dog had commenced to point I resolved to shoot one or two and after missing two single shots I made a ~~double~~ shot among the pines killing two birds over a steady point from Dash. Dan also fired once and missed. Returning to the buggy we drove up to Hapgood's where "Dash" made a doubtful point on a woodcock which I killed as it rose. Here we also started a bevy of quail which was not larger than some sparrows. Got back to dinner. Skinned the grouse & woodcock in P.M.

Quail 2 - Woodcock 1.

Saw a single Ov. agilis among hilly pines on high land

MASS. (Middlesex Co
1876.

Seiurus aurocapillus last seen
Ectopistes migratorius

Friday
Sept. 29

Clear and warm with S.W. wind. Off after breakfast alone this time. Drove up to the Parker lot where I tied & beat for game but started nothing whatever, So returned to the buggy and drove up to Farrar's farm where I again tied the horse. Here I hunted for some time without starting anything but finally got up a grouse and shooting at it, took out lots of feathers but failed to stop, or at best could not find it. Shortly after "Dash" put up a woodcock that was lying under a birch bush on the very summit of a bare hill. He flushed out of range but I marked him down and starting him again killed him. Keeping across through the birches nearly to Hutchinson's barn I flushed two more grouse shooting at both & killing one which Dash found and retrieved. Returning to my buggy I started for Concord, getting back at 12 M. Saw Har. sufus 1, Spilo erythrop. numbers Eny. fuscus numbers. Arrivals were Dend. coronata in numbers, & Certhia Am. 1. Saw the last Seiurus aurocapillus.

Grouse 1 - Woodcock 1

Saturday
Sept. 30

Clear in A.M. cloudy with occasional sprinkling in the afternoon. In forenoon drove down to the Bilerica woods where I shot a Vireo solitarius from the buggy. It was a young ♂ and was singing at intervals. In P.M. drove down to Cambridge, Jim accompanying me as far as Waltham. On the edge of Walden woods saw a wild pigeon in the road which was so tame as to nearly allow the horses to step on it before flying

Helminthophaga celata 2 ♀♀. Concord Mass.
Arrivals; D. palmarum sever, R. satrapa et calendula sever
Lon. albicollis gen. a., D. striata fast giving way to D. coron.
Hel. ruficapilla, D. virens & caerulescens at meridian
Monday
Oct. 2

Clear and a most lovely day. Drove up to Concord last night bringing "Smuggler" with me. This morning started off with Jim's horse and drove down to "Holl's" where I tied. Beat over most of the woodcock ground but failed to start any birds though Smuggler worked with considerable courage & perseverance. Got up two grouse one of which I fired a long shot at. Noticing numbers of small birds I next went to work to shoot a few and in the course of an hour or so took 8 specimens. 2 ♀♀ D. caerulescens, 2 D. virens, 1 D. palmarum, 1 Regulus cal., 1 Cy. cristata & 1 Hel. ruficapilla (fall pl.). I was about giving it up, and turning towards home, when I noticed two small warblers in a little company of D. virens which were feeding among some low birches. After watching them a moment I became convinced that they were Dendroica new to me and was about to shoot when both entered some thick scrub oaks & I lost them for a time. A short time after this I saw what I took to be one of them fly out into the birches again and quickly approaching it, shot, and to my great delight picked up a fine specimen of Hel. celata in fall plumage. I afterwards searched for the other but in vain. Whether it was the same or not I am unable to say but both looked alike when I first observed them. I spent the P. M. skinning my birds. Arrivals were Hel. celata, D. palmarum, sev. Reg. calendula, R. satrapa several, Lon. albicollis gen. a. Still remaining, I noted Parula Am.!, D. maculosa sev. D. caerulescens sev. D. striata getting scarce, Pipilo erythrop., Mimus Car.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)
1876.
Thursday
Oct. 4

Arrival of T. Pallasi
Summer red. & early migrants still with us.

Clear and warm with S. W. wind. Did not go out yesterday at all though the weather was very fine. This morning started off alone and drove down to Hall's where I went through the woodcock ground hastily without starting any birds! Had the same poor success at "Round hill" and "the school house pine" but on the way home I tried the alder corner in front of Halls and put up a partridge which lit on a pine limb within a few yards of me. I took fair aim at it as it sat on the limb but most unaccountably missed it. Following it up, "Smuggler" ran into it and drove it by me when I killed it.

After dinner had my horse harnessed again drove down the turnpike to "Halls" this time leaving my dog at home and taking some collecting charges.

Shot 12 birds, the best D. coronescens 2 ♂, D. palmarum 1; & H. ruficapilla 1

The woods were very still not a breath of air stirring. Far and near could be heard rustling of leaves & occasionally the light pat of a dropping acorn. I ascertained that most of the former noises were occasioned by chip squirrels which seemed to be out in force. Small birds were excessively numerous. I saw D. coronescens 2 ♂ 1 ♀. D. striata a few, D. palmarum a few Parula Am. 1; Hel. ruficapilla 1; Zon. albicol. numbers; Har. rufus several; Seiurus Carolinensis several, Mel. palustris a number in old weed field. Spiz. pusilla numbers. Only arrival here T. pallasi in numbers.

Assistant 1

Sat.
Oct. 7 Clear and cool with high wind (Thursday it rained all day and I did not get out at all. Friday dark with frequent showers up to 1 P.M. when it cleared up. In P.M. went up the Assabet river in Richardson's "birch" taking Miss Fuller & Miss Kettell. Saw a pair of wild pigeons, an Accipiter bicopii several Seiurus noveboracensis, two Ceryl alcyon and after sundown an immense number of bats.)
This morning I started off as usual in my buggy driving down to "Halls". Hunted very carefully for woodcock but could not start a feather. Saw large numbers of small birds including Pipilos, Mimus Car.; Vireo sol. et olivaceus, Vol. ruficapilla, D. maculosa, D. coerulescens ♂ & ♀, and what surprised me somewhat a fine Turdus aliciae at which I had a good sight. Got back at 11 without any thing to show for my forenoons work.

Sunday
Oct 8 Clear and a lovely day. In A.M. went up to see Nesbitt. In P.M. drove up to Concord arriving at 6 P.M. Had a very pleasant drive as the country especially at sunset was at its loveliest. Near the edge of the Sandy Pond woods I passed a pigeon hawk which was sitting on the topmost dead branch of a large chestnut tree. It was apparently a ♀ being a very large individual.

Troglodytes hyemalis.
MASS. (Middlesex Co.) H. rufus; H. Car; P. erythrop; & Parula; last seen
1876.

Monday Oct. 9 Clear, cold and windy. The mercury fell below the freezing point last night. Started off immediately after breakfast in my buggy with W. Buttrick and drove down to "Halls" where we tied and commenced beating for woodcock.
In the Southern bich we found not a bird, but in front of Halls' house "Lauree" "roaded" a woodcock for some distance among the bushes & as it rose I shot and killed it. Afterwards in the thick alders B.'s dog started another cock which I killed as it flew by me at about 40 yds. I also fired a third shot at a grouse and missed it. Saw Troglodytes hyemalis for the first time this fall. B. killed a single woodcock after I left him.

Woodcock 2

Tuesday Oct. 10 Clear and cool with rather high wind. Off after breakfast tying my horse in the lane near the turnpike as usual. Walked all over Halls, starting three woodcock and killing each at the first rise and with the first barrel. Lauree failed to point any of them but behaved very handsomely on a grouse which however I did not get a shot at. He has turned out a very fine, stylish ranger, carrying his head high and going at a rattling gallop.
Saw for the last time Har. rufus 1; Parula Am 1, Pipilo erythrop. 1; a Mimus Carolinensis 1.
D. palmarum was abundant everywhere in the bushes where they seemed to be restricted at this season.

Woodcock 3

1876.

Wednesday
Oct. 11 Clear with very cold wind. Spent the forenoon in my room stuffing birds. Jim came up at 1 P.M. and we started off together immediately after dinner driving up to "Farrar's" where we beat for an hour or more and started one woodcock & a grouse neither of which was shot at. Next drove around to Robbins' mills where Jim killed a woodcock & a grouse and I ~~another~~ a single grouse. This last bird I shot under rather singular conditions. Lancer roaded on an evidently strong scent for some distance and finally pointed staunchly. As I came up behind him a grouse rose some 30 yds. ahead and flitting up a few yds. dropped again to the ground like a rail & commenced running when I shot it on the ground. Upon picking it up I found it a mere skeleton though in fine plumage. No external mark of injury could be found upon it anywhere.

Thursday
Oct. 12 Clear and very cold, ice forming to the thickness of window glass & the ground freezing quite hard. Started off after breakfast with W. Buttrick and drove down to Hall's fully expecting to start a lot of woodcock but we were completely disappointed. I hunted several hours in vain finding nothing but a grouse which "Lancer" pointed in fine style ~~at~~ which I missed a rather hard shot. After I had got tired out however & returned to

1876.
(Oct. 12) the buggy. B. flushed them woodcock, & bagged two of them. Saw three winter wrens, all along old stone walls.
After dinner I got Richardson's birch canoe and taking Miss Fuller & Miss Kettell started up the Concord river and paddled as far up as Fairhaven bay. Returning to the foot of the hill I walked up to the cliffs with Miss F. The afternoon was very lovely and the view from the cliffs superb.
On the way back saw an immense flock of tit larks flying over the meadows. Saw also a bittern, two Ardea herodias, a Pandion, and just at sunset, a snipe which rose near the river bank and flew over the canoe.

Friday Oct. 13 Clear, and a warm, lovely day. Accepted an invitation to a picnic party on the river, and starting at 12 M. with Miss Fuller we joined the others at "the Hemlocks" where we had dinner.
Came back in the afternoon getting home at 4. Getting my horse harnessed I drove over to the bridge below Fairhaven bay, and returned in time to meet the 5.20 train at Concord expecting to get Jim & take a short drive but found he had not come up, so came back to the stable.
Saw a bittern sitting within a few yards of the road near Geo. Hubbard's farm. It sat as usual with its bill pointing up nearly perpendicularly into the air.

Winter weather

1876.
Saturday
Oct. 14 Clear and warm in the morning. Cloudy with light rain in P.M. Rising temperature up to 11 P.M. Spent the A.M. in my room writing etc. In P.M. drove down to Cambridge.

Sunday
Oct. 15 To the intense surprise of everybody the morning broke upon a wintry scene. Snow falling fast, & the ground covered with the spotless though dreary pall of winter. By 8 A.M. the storm ceased and the clouds cleared away before a brisk & chill N.W. wind. About 2 inches of snow covered the ground and the mercury remained so near the freezing point during the day that but little of it melted. Starting for Concord at about 4 P.M. I drove up over the Sandy pond road. The beauty of the scenery surpassed anything that I have ever witnessed before. The snow coming as it did in a moist condition adhered closely to every twig and leaf, and the weather afterwards becoming & remaining cold through the day very little either shook or melted off. As I entered the Lincoln woods the sun was just setting and the ruddy glow cast over everything by its slanting beams enhanced the contrasts that had before previously been enchantingly beautiful, and furnished a transient spectacle almost too lovely for description. The autumn leaves in the full maturity of their gorgeous splendor delicately set off by the snow frosting

1876
(Oct. 15)

of spotless white and lighted up to the fullest extent by the rosy light of the sinking sun were resplendant with all conceivable tints and colorings. When feathery pines were intermingled, the contrast heightened their climax and not less beautiful when rocky hillsides, the graceful outlines of the ledges showing in strong bas-relief amid their framing of russet scrub oaks and delicate birch saplings. But the ~~beauty of~~ light soon faded from the west and as I crossed the level open country to the Eastward of the town the twilight revealed a dull dreary aspect of snow covered fields and muddy roads too suggestive of chilly March winds to be pleasant. Both horses were powdered all over with the snow which shook down upon their backs from the over-arching frost laden trees that well nigh closed the narrow road through the Lincoln woods.

Monday
Oct. 16 Clear and cold though the weather moderated so much by noon that all the snow disappeared. Started immediately after breakfast with W. Bullock & drove down to "Halls" where I left my horse. In Hall's proper we hunted about 3 hours & put up seven woodcock of which B. killed two. I fired three shots & bagged not a feather. After leaving B. however I

Archibuteo lagopus

1876.
(Oct. 16)

Wood duck 1

flushed two wood ducks from an old peat hole and killed the drake cutting a cloud of feathers from the duck as she went off my charge of No 12 being too fine to reach her life. Got back to the house at 12. B. kept on down to the "school house piece" and flushed six more cock making 13 in all. The country must have been full of them to day. Small birds of all kinds were scarce to day. A few shivering half-frozen look red polls (D. palmarum) with a rather more numerous sprinkling of D. coronata were about all that I observed which were worthy of note. Jim Melvin started for the Cape this P.M.

Tuesday Oct. 17

Last night clear and cool though without frost. To-day cloudy with occasional sprinkling in forenoon, beautifully clear & pleasant in P.M. Started immediately after breakfast and drove down to Hall's with Buttrick. Beat the ground over carefully but got up only one woodcock which B. missed. Afterwards I got a long shot at an Archibuteo lagopus and broke his wing. He was very fierce and showed dauntless courage but a vigorous compression of the lungs speedily ended his existence. Saw very few small birds except sparrows all of which still remain in abundance. The leaves in the swamps are now all down but on the upland the trees are still thickly clothed & the coloring brilliant. In the

1876.
(Oct. 17) P. M. drove up to Fairhaven cliffs with Miss Hettell and spent several hours on the sheltered side of the ledge looking off over the beautiful scenery. Several hawks came circling about below us among others a Pandion, and an Archibuteo lagopus, the latter poising motionless breasting the wind without effort, as is the habit of the species.

Wednesday Oct. 18 Clear and a lovely day with rather high wind. Off after breakfast as usual, driving up North. Hunted about an hour and got so disgusted with my success in finding game, and the poor working of my pointer (Smugglr has not pointed a single bird this week) that I gave up the search and returned to town by a circuitous route. Saw a single Pipilo erythrophthalmus. Saw an immense flock of crows flying S. the first migrating birds that I have noticed as yet.

Thursday Oct. 19 Clear, perfectly still & nearly as warm as summer. Got off at about 8 A. M. and calling for W. Buttrick drove down to Walls where we tied the horse & beat a short time for woodcock but without moving anything. Kept drove over to the "Virginia road" where we beat for quail but failed to find any. Flushed a woodcock from among some scrub oak that was barely three high & both fired & missed him at long range.

Molothrus pecoris

1876.
(Æt. 19)

P.M. the P.M. took a drive over through the Estabrook road with the young ladies, going by their invitation in a stable team.
Jim & H. Battrick came back from the Cape to day. They shot Tuesday & Wednesday and bagged 25 quail & 4 grouse. The first day they started 5 bevies, the second 3 do.

Friday
Oct. 20 Clear with very hazy atmosphere & very warm for the season. Did not go out at all to day. In P.M. had the horses harnessed and took a short drive, getting around to "Fairy land" pond at sunset. Saw a large flock of Molothrus pecoris sitting strung along a fence by the road side. Some of the males had still considerable patches of brownish slate in their plumage.

Saturday
Oct. 21 Cloudy and warm. Drove down to Camb. in the forenoon getting to the house by dinner time.

Sunday
Oct. 22 Cloudy with thick fog. Drove up to Concord in P.M. getting there by 6 P.M. About three miles outside the town a small bevy of quail flew over the road past the horse's head and pitched down all together among some low alders. They had evidently flown ~~to~~ from their warning feed and although I have always known that they followed this method still I was none the less pleased to actually witness the proceedure.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

1876.
Monday
Oct. 23 Cloudy with drizzling rain, all day did not go out at all but spent the time in reading & writing letters.

Tuesday
Oct. 24 Cloudy with frequent rain in A. M. Cleared off ~~at~~ noon and very pleasant in P. M. Had Jim's horse harnessed directly after dinner and took a long drive with Miss Fuller. Went first to Walden pond and visited Thoreau's abiding place, thence to Fairhaven cliffs where we remained till sunset, talking, and looking out over the glorious landscape. The atmosphere cleared of all haze by the recent rain, revealed distant objects with unusual distinctness, and just before sunset the wind died away completely and the whole lovely scene lay bathed in ~~the~~ calm ~~peaceful~~ quiet. So perfectly hushed were all sounds of ordinary prevalence, that the chuck of a chipmunk came distinctly to the ear from the opposite side of the valley below and even the rustling of leaves stirred by his busy doings, was ~~distin~~ faintly audible. Voices of men engaged in collecting some scattered cattle in a pasture across the river and nearly a mile distant, were plainly heard and some few words ~~were~~ distinguished, though they talked in tones not louder than common. Small Diptera flying over the river were visable at nearly half a mile

(Oct. 24) distance but this of course only when the slanting sunbeams lighted up their gauzy wings. I noticed occasionally also small birds passing across the path of the light in the same manner when at such distances that they became invisable directly they crossed the illumined way, just as of a summer evening moths appear and disappear in the stream of light shed through a window or about the street gas lamps. Noticed several birds worthy of mention among these a fine Lon. leucophrys in adlt. plumage. It was sitting on a maple sapling by the roadside as I drove slowly past I had a good view of it. At the cliffs a very large Archibuteo lagopus sailed past us within 30 yds. and without a single motion of the wings glided off across Fairhaven until lost to sight. Saw also in Walden woods, a fine grouse which stalked proudly across the wood path through which we were driving.

Wednesday Oct. 25 Clear and warm with S. W. wind. Off directly after breakfast driving up through the "College road" to Joe Smith's where I tied & left the horse. Had only just entered the woods when "Bauncy" commenced to "draw" and following closely his careful movements two grouse rose wild and a third which seemed maimed behind and lay well to the dog

1876.
(Oct. 25)

gave me a rather hard shot which I killed in good style. Following up the remaining two I killed one of them over a steady point, but although the dog worked finely on the third & pointed him three or four times I failed to get a shot. Striking across from here to the line of trees behind Smith's barn I started five more grouse & killed two of them. The dog worked magnificently and is the finest animal on this species of game that I ever shot over. During the forenoon I fired 8 shots & brought to bag 4 birds, Launce pointed every bird started except one.

Ruffed grouse 4
Spiz. monticola in numbers

Thursday
Oct. 26

Clear with rather strong S.W. wind. Off after breakfast driving up to Smith's. Hunted over all the ground which I investigated yesterday and a good deal more besides. Started 6 grouse & a woodcock. Shot six times and bagged only one grouse, the first one that I fired at. "Launce", if possible, outdid yesterday's performance and pointed every bird which was started. Drove back in time for dinner. In P.M. rowed my boat up to the French's landing and had it put up for the winter in their barn. The leaves are now all off in the woods and the chances for getting shots consequently improved. A few asters still bloom in sheltered places but otherwise the landscape is fast losing its summer & autumnal adornments.

Ruffed grouse 1

Zenaidura bcn. 1s. trichas Han. rufus. Reg. calend.
General remarks on Bird arrivals etc

1876.
Friday
Oct. 27 Clear with cold N. wind. Off after breakfast driving ~~first~~ to the Parker lot where I jump up a woodcock and missed a good shot at him. Nett struck in at Melvin's run and made some remarkably good shooting (for me) killing 3 grouse and a turtle dove in 4 consecutive shots. "Hanna" again worked wonderfully well pointing every grouse started (four others got off unshot at). He however ran in disgracefully on the woodcock, showing no signs of the presence of scent though the bird lay unusually close.
The turtle dove rose wild among some scattered birches and passed me at long range going down wind. It was a young ♂ in imperfect plumage, and falling through a birch tree was ruined as a specimen by the dislodgement of most of the feathers on one side of the breast. So tender was the skin that it was in several places ripped off in great patches by the friction against the twigs.
Saw a single ♂ Geothlypis trichas and one Thr. rufus. Juncos & Lon. albicollis were everywhere in immense flocks. Pas. iliaca is also abundant. The first one was shot by Mr. Fox Oct. 14. Saw a single Strix hyemalis & have noticed one or more every day lately. Circus cyaneus I also see daily. Saw one each of Regulus calendula and Dend. palmarum, & coronata are getting rare. Many flocks of crows migrating this morning.

1876. Leave Concord

Abundance of N. nivea, P. villosus & M. erythrop.

Saturday Oct. 26 Clear and cold. Drove down to Cambridge in the forenoon taking with me all my effects and I am obliged to bid good-bye to Concord for this season. Saw no birds of any interest on the way.

Monday Nov. 6 Arrived in Cambridge last Saturday morning from Phila. where I spent a week "doing" the Centennial. Saw almost no birds during the trip and certainly none that were of interest. Was however much pleased one morning to see from the car window a fine large black Squirrel running across an open field with long graceful bounds. Upon reaching home Saturday I found that the event of the week had been a perfect flood of snowy owls from the N. (Vide Bull N.O.C. Jan. 1877) A number of red headed woodpeckers have also been taken within the last two weeks; about six altogether in Watertown & Newton & all in immature plumage. Picus villosus is also said to be fairly common. I saw one climbing the trunk of one of our elm trees yesterday. Starting off at 3.30 this P.M. I drove up to Cotton's swamp and beating a short distance for quail "Bawden" found a small bevy in fine style. I missed a rather long double as they rose and afterwards killed the only single bird that I could find

Quail!

 Anthus ludovic. Collurio borealis

1876
Thursday
Nov. 9 Cloudy with occasional rain. In P.M. started off with both "Launer" & "Smuggler" and tramped up through the swamps as far as Block is, when I met Robt. Nesbitt with his pointer "Siren". On the beech knoll we found a man tramping about for a bevy of quail which he had scattered there, and from which he had bagged three birds. Going to work with the dogs we soon found some eight or nine of them which had run together out in the meadow and as they got up befor "Siren", Rob. & I fired together killing one of them. Following them into the cover we started a number and made some miserably poor shooting at them, Rob getting only one more. As we left the swamp at dusk, "Launer" running on ahead, ~~came to~~ a fine point in the open meadow and as I stepped by him a quail rose, which I shot, this bird making 3 bagged altogether. Saw a flock of S. magna & ~~started~~ a snipe

Brad 2

Saturday
Nov. 11 Clear at sunrise but clouded up soon after and rained violently by night. The past week it has rained every day, more or less, and in most cases more. The whole country is fairly soaked. Went off after breakfast letting "Launer". Tried first for the Block I bee but could not find them so drove up on the hill & there also was unsuccessful. Saw a small flock of Anthus ludovic on the meadow also a Collurio borealis

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Singular behavior of Cy. cristata
Least Pewee & Alaca. D. Audubonii

1876.
Thursday
Nov. 16

A lovely day and especially welcome after the long period of rain which we had had. Spent the forenoon on "the farm" looking for small birds but saw nothing of especial interest. Shot four or five specimens, all common. Saw Junco migratorius in small flocks; Colaptes auratus, a few; Junco hyemalis one flock; Pas. iliaca a single bird, the last of the season; Regulus satrapa very abundant; Certhia Am. four or five; and Chry. tristis. A large flock of Cy. cristata acted in a very remarkable manner. About a dozen or fifteen were sitting in a clump of low alders along a brook and at some distance from the woods. As I came up I noticed first that none of them moved but all sat perfectly motionless in the warm rays of the sun. Finally I approached within ten yards of them and ~~with~~ in full view and after looking at them a few moments I fired four spunk charges at them, killing two, before any of them would move. Finally they commenced screaming at me and one imitated the whistle of B. lineatus in vociferous accents. At length they seemed to take a sudden alarm and flew off hastily to the nearest woods scattering as they went. I never saw anything like it before, and can only account by the supposition that they were N. birds who were unused to man. They are very abundant just now.

Mr. Abbott Jr. Gregory shot a young D. Audubonii in Watertown this morning. I have examined the specimen & find it quite typical. (C. J. Bull. N. O. C. Jan. 1877.)

Mergulus alle

1876.
Monday
Nov. 20 The heaviest storm of the season. The wind blew a perfect gale from the N. E. all day prostrating telegraph lines and shaking building and doing much damage among the shipping. Rain fell in torrents from daylight till well into the succeeding night and everything was flooded. In fact this storm was the exact counterpart of that of Nov. 187 , and remembering the ~~event~~ of that occasion we of course expected another visit from Mergulus alle nor were we entirely disappointed. On the 21st 22nd and 23rd, a few specimens were seen and one or two shot. I heard of one flock seen in Mystic river by a gunner who for some reason was unable to get at them. I did not hear of any far inland and judge that they were better enabled to weather the storm at sea than on the former occasion.

Nov. 28 Last night it snowed for an hour or two and the sun rose clear this morning on a glorious scene. I had made an engagement with Jesse Warren so got off at about 8.30 and drove out to Newton to meet him. Finding him all ready to start we sallied out and took our way towards the Wyman place. Entering the woods we found them perfectly lovely with the drapery of spotless white. The snow came moist but as only about 2 inches fell, the branches were not so heavily loaded as is usual and the effect I think was consequently even

Quail Shooting Winter Scene
Flock of Colluric borealis

1876.
(Nov. 28)

snow fine. Every twig, every blade of grass was delicately draped with the powdery substance and ~~every blade of grass was~~ the slight wind which had arisen ~~shaking~~ caused the trees to wave to & fro gently throwing flickering shadows everywhere on the spotless ~~sobr~~ sea beneath. The woods were rich with this wintry foliage but not luxuriant & the effect was more that of the first unfolding of the leaves in May than of the heavy masses of ~~foliage~~ frondage which almost encumber the landscape in July. As we forced our way through the thickets the snow shook down upon us in showers, loading our hat rims & shoulders & sifting down our backs. Thus we fairly earnt our enjoyment. Upon first striking the quail ground Warren started a covey of 8 birds from an open field and these were all that we found during the day. I find then shots at them & killed two. We also started three grouse at which I find an equal number of times but without avail. Found the tracks of another bevy of quail but could not start the birds. A bevy runs over a surprising amount of country in the course of a morning. "Bounce" worked finely as usual and made a number of fine points. Frazer told me the other day of a flock of Shrikes (C. borealis) that he saw in Nov. some three years back. About 25 were collected together in a small orchard and the whole body kept moving along from tree to tree

Quail 2

Thanksgiving 1876. Thursday Nov. 30

Quail shooting. Brachyotus Cassini attacks a live duck decoy
Nyctea Scandiaca in confinement

Clear and rather cold. Got off with Eustis at 8.30 A.M. and drove up to Shade St. where I got my horse put up in a barn. Hunted all day for game but up to 3 P.M. started nothing excepting a pair of very wild grouse. About that time Eustis blundered upon a bevy of about 15 quail which had collected into a ring for the night as winced by the marks of their bodies in the snow. We chased them about for some time but found them so exceedingly wild that we got but few good shots. I killed 2 of them (E. fired at one & very probably did the killing) and a grouse. Lanner was very wild in his ranging but pointed nearly every bird as usual. Saw one Colaptes and lots of jays. Mr. Joyce told me the other day that while lying in his boat at night watching for black ducks a Brachyotus Cassini make a stoop for his live duck decoy when he shot it. He says he has had this happen several times. While down in Dock Sq. Boston I went up to see three live N. nivea which were kept in a loft. They sat on the floor in rather a crouching attitude. Walked with comparative ease & rapidity taking long sliding steps: uttered a sort of twittering noise when approached & also but more rarely a loud hough almost like the snort of a startled horse. They flew about the room noiselessly with hanging legs hanging down. Specimens of this bird have nearly stopped coming into town.

Grouse 1 - Quail 2

Marston's Mills, MASS
1876.
Tuesday
Dec. 5

Shooting trip to Marston's Mills
Winter haunt of the Snipe

Clear still & a lovely day. Came down on the cape last night leaving Boston by the 4 P.M. train. Arrived at Capt. Baxters at 7.45 and found all well. Brought my pointer "Smuggler" alone, as I wish to give him a thorough trial on game. Started out this morning after breakfast with Capt. B. & spent the forenoon hunting the woods & fields E. of his farm. Started 7 grouse and fired nine shots at them getting only one bird. They lay remarkably well & Carters dog "Cap" made some fine points on them but I shot wretchedly. In P.M. started off again, this time Westward. Cap. found & pointed a bevy of quail up the valley. I fired two barrels at them & B. one. Three birds shot down. Could not find the bevy again. Striking the river below "Mud" pond I waded down its channel to the mouth, being desirous to investigate the snipe problem as Capt. B. has always assured me that Gallinago winters there regularly & in numbers. The bed of the river (or rather brook for it averages not wider than 10 ft) is good wading as the bottom is hard & gravelly & the water uniformly about 10 inches deep. It consists of gravelly shallows where the current runs rapidly and at the foot of each still dark pools two feet or more in depth. It was formerly a famous fishing ground for sea trout. This brook winds through the centre of one of the most tangled swamps I have ever entered. Birch maple & alder trees averaging 15 to 20 ft

Grouse 1 - Quail 3 - Snipe 1

Marston's Mills, MASS. 1876.

Last woodcock of the season
D. coronata abundant on Cape Cod.

(Dec. 5) in height are completely festooned with bull brier and wild grape vines. Only by the pathway of the brook can it be penetrated, & in many places the grape vines are strung across that so thickly that it is very hard to get through them. All the way down little springy ways empty into the brook after spreading about through the cove on either side. These were frozen and many of them were to day as green as a June meadow. Here the snipe lay & feed a great part of the time though they go down on the salt marshes a good deal at night to feed on the flats exposed by the tide. I started seven in all this afternoon and shot down three only one of which however my dog found but that one he pointed dead in good style. They acted differently from any snipe that I ever saw. As I waded down the brook they would rise with a heavy whirring of their wings and topping the trees like woodcock, fly off to either down or up the brook. Others would start from the bank and flit in perfect silence low over the brook for fifteen yards or more & light again. In this way I started one some five or six times before I got a shot, always driving him ahead of me. Only on that I flushed in a little meadow flew & scaped in the usual style. Capt. B. affirms that he saw a woodcock here in January. & I examined a Rallus Virginianus which he shot Nov. 30th 1872 in this place. Saw upwards of 50 Pend. coronata a M. melodia, a large flock of S. magna, & a flock of Ex. alpestris. I have no doubt that D. coronata winters here in numbers.

Robert Nesbit started a woodcock in Belmont – the last one seen, at Concord was flushed by Mr. Bartlett Nov. 27.

Marstons Mills, Mass. 1876. Wednesday Dec. 6

Trip to "Nine mile" pond

Clear & still but cold. Started off after breakfast & Miss Fannie drove us over to "Nine mile" pond. Hunted all day but up to sundown had seen nothing but 2 grouse & had neither of us fired a shot. Saw signs of quail in the clearing but could not find them. Walked out through the woods in the afternoon & while silently wending our way along a wood path I heard a crackling of sticks in the brush & upon making some little noise myself a deer started within 30 yds. of us and went off with long leaps through the woods. Although the thickness of the brush prevented our getting even a sight at it we both heard its bounds with perfect distinctness. Coming out at the "town house" about sunset, Cap. found & pointed a small bevy of quail among the weeds and as they rose we each got down one but mine a runner, got off though I nearly caught him over. My pointer stood well on him when he first hid. I shot a Poecetes gramineus in a rye field. It was in company with several M. melodia. D. coronata was abundant everywhere in large flocks. Colaptes is much more abundant here than in Mass. and associates a good deal with S. magna feeding with them on the ground. Cyanura cristata is also very abundant in the woods. Spizella monticola is moderately common. Pinus atricapillus with its fides Acbates Regulus satrapa formed in large companies everywhere among the pines. Mel. melodia seems to be more numerous than in Mass. Saw a single Bonasa bonasia

Bastard quail!

1876.
Thursday
Dec. 7

Snipe 3 - Quail 1

A. M. cloudy. P. M. clear and warm with S. wind. Started off at 10 & Capt. B. drove me to the head of the river where I commenced aggin & hunted down for snipe. Started 8 birds find four shots, killed 2 snipe & found 1 that I killed Tuesday & could not then find. Also shot an A. hyemalis which was hopping about under the banks of the brook. In P. M. went East with the Capt. His dog found & pointed a small bevy of quail in the open and as they rose I took a cloud of feathers from my first bird & with the second barrel killed the largest cock quail that I ever shot. He weighed exactly 8 2/16 oz.
D. coronata still abundant especially so in the thickets along the river when I suspect they retire in warm weather.

Friday
Dec. 8

Grouse 1 - Quail 1

Clear and sunny. After breakfast spent an hour or two hunting grouse in the woods behind Hinckleys. Shot 8 times but did not bag anything. Sammy made a good point on one bird. At about 10 A.M. Capt. B. joined me & we hunted over to "the Hinckley farm" where Capt. found & pointed a bevy of quail in a deep hollow. As they rose I singled out a bird for each barrel & killed both. Capt. B. also fired both barrels. Upon hunting for the dead birds what was our surprise at finding six birds scattered around on the ground. How we killed so many will always be a mystery to me. Capt afterwards found & pointed one of the scattered bevy & I killed it as it

~~Returns home~~

Bevy of quail feeding on the snow

1876.
(Dec. 8)

son, ~~the~~ pointer retrieved the dead birds nicely after first pointing dead on each. In P.M. I started off alone and hunted over to Goodspeeds & beyond. Started four grouse & shot 5 times killing one bird. Smuggler for the first time did somewhat really good work making a number of good points and finding my bird — a grouse, in fine style.

Saturday
Dec. 9

The morning broke cloudy & snow falling thickly about 2 inches already on the ground. ~~The~~ weather soon cleared however & I got off at about 9. Hunted over to Goodspeeds & found the tracks of a large bevy in his clearing but could not start them. Returning I got a long shot into a bevy of 7, that rose off a wood pile left the valley but did not kill any & could not find them again. After dinner Capt. B. drove me over to W. Barnstable where I took the 2.40 train for Boston.

On the way over we saw a bevy of 14 quail out on the snow within shot of the road. A pretty sight I assure be held. Some were resting, squatted in little groups on the spotless surface; others were running busily about ~~in little~~ among the weeds while one large cock bird had climbed up a few inches on a bending stalk & was reaching up picking at the seeds. I forgot to note, that grouse ~~and~~ in this locality feed out on the stubbles morning & evening nearly as regularly as the quail

Total bag for week 12 quail 2 grouse 4 snipe = 18 birds

Habits of the quail – Sturnella magna

1876.
Monday
Dec. 11 Clear & cold. Thr. 0° at sunrise. In P.M. took "Banner" and went up to the pine swamp where I tracked 2 quail for some time & started & shot at a grouse. I tracked the grouse some distance when it turned on its track and passing me within 20 yds. under cover of some fallen brush ran behind me. That it did this with design & while I was pressing closely on its footsteps was clearly proven by the long strides which it took & which were clearly marked in the snow.

Tuesday
Dec. 12 Cloudy throughout the day, cleared at sunset. About five inches of snow fell last night & this morning. In P.M. started out taking my pointer "Smuggler". Beat the pine swamp in vain; then tried the maple swamp beyond "Block island" and after tracking a bevy of quail for some distance "Smuggler" finally found & pointed them in fine style. As they rose I "put on" to to one but pulled trigger in vain for the hammer through some mistake had been left at half cock. Following them I found the other half of the bevy but it was so dark when they rose that I could not see along the barrel & fired two shots in vain. This bevy as I found by following the track had split up one half keeping in the swamp, the other hanging out to feed in the open, where I found them. Saw a single Sturnella magna flying over the big meadow. Saw also a musk rat dive into an air hole in the ice.

1876.
Wednesday
Dec. 13

Clear and warm with light W. wind. Met Rob. Nesbitt by appointment at 8.30 A.M. and started for the swamps, taking "Smugglr." Robt. had his pointer bitch "Siren". Nat. Nesbitt also accompanied us. After the pine swamp we flushed a bevy of about 15 quail and marking them down in the open on the Smith meadow, had good sport with them killing ~~nine~~ birds. They lay well, each bird being crouched in under the fleecy snow which clung to every branch & weed, forming tunnels & arches innumerable. Leaving this bevy at noon we flushed another of about the same size in the swamp beyond "Block island" Of these I got three making our total bag twelve quail. I shot uncommonly well "for me", killing seven birds "straight", missing both barrels on the next, then killing two more — nine birds in eleven shots. The latter three were in thick cover. The snow aided us much though the dogs also worked beautifully and found many of the birds. Several times however I tracked a quail directly into its hiding place, when I would call up my dog & getting him down to his point, would thrust in the toe of my rubber boot and "aye gods!" how the snow would fly as the quail burst up through it! These quail have evidently come down into the swamps from Belmont, entered probably by the abundant feed as the night shade vines are loaded with scarlet berries and rank weeds abound even in the cover. We also started a grouse & got home by dark well tired out

W.B. Quail 9(-2) R. R. Nesbitt quail 3(-2) N. Nesbitt quail 2(-1) total 12

Cyanospiza cyanea – Ceryle alcyon – Nyc. gardeni
Dec. 5 Dec. 14 Dec. 15

1876.
Thursday
Dec. 14

Quail shooting

Clear but absolutely still – not a breath of wind & a bad day consequently for scent. Met the three Nesbitt brothers by appointment at 9.30. I took "Dauncy" to day while Robert had his new setter bitch "Nell". John was fully equipped with three setters, "Old Belle", "Nand" and "Zilpha". We found the remnant of the firm swamp bevy in the same place as yesterday, only four birds getting up. We must have left more than that number yesterday unless we wounded more than we thought. Robert was the only one of the party that stood within shooting distance & he hit one bird very hard and following it out into the open I sprang it again & gave it the finish. In the swamp "Dauncy" roaded & pointed a grouse in fine style but I missed it when it got up. We next tried the Block is. bevy and started it in the swamp. About eight birds were left. Robert killed 2 and John 1 from this bevy. I fired four shots and missed them all. These quail were now so badly frightened that they lay like stones and even when let alone a long time were afraid to call. We gave up hunting at about 4 P.M. and returned. I find by examining tracks in the snow that the ruffed grouse associates with the quail and runs & feeds with the bevy. This I had previously suspected from the fact that one so often starts the two species together.

Frazer shot a Cy. cyanea in full pl. on Dec. 5. He also ~~saw~~ a ♀ Ceryle alcyon Dec. 14 and a Nyctiosda gardeni Dec. 15 All in Watertown on the Goodale farm

M. B. quail 1 – R. B. N. quail 3 (– 1) J. N. quail 1 – total 4

1876.
Sunday
Dec. 31 The year (1876) closes to day with solid winter weather. Since Dec. 9th the ground has been covered with snow, no warm spells having occurred. At date of writing we have about in this vicinity about 25 inches and the sleighing is good. The past month has been characterized by a great scarcity of birds both as to individuals and species. No ~~visitors~~ irregular winter visitors at all and regular species scantily represented. In late Nov. and the first part of this month Goodale had four

Nyctale ~~Nyctale~~ acadica sent in from the vicinity of Boston; he always has more of this species than any other taxidermist of my acquaintance. ~~He~~.

Mr. Abbott Frazer has seen

Turdus migratorius regularly but in very small numbers on and about the Coolidge farm in Watertown ~~through~~ the past two months. He also saw distinctly

Accipiter fuscus in the same locality on Dec. 29: a bird of the same species (and probably the same individual was seen at nearly the same place by Mr. W. Patten, Dec. 30.

Mr. Frazer also informs me that he has counted up in all nine specimens of

Melanerpes erythrocephalus shot in Watertown and Newton the past autumn (see p. 397)

At Goodale's is a specimen of

Plectrophanes lapponicus shot at Chelsea beach Mass. Dec. 29th 1876.

Plectrophanes nivalis is very scarce this year and I have seen only a very few, most of them flying high in air.

May 16 Through the winter months birds of all kinds were excessively scarce and I saw and heard of so few that I did not think it worth while to take the field and thro' Jan'y, ~~Feb~~ and Feb'y I did not fire a shot or make any observations worth recording. Saturday March 3rd I started for Florida where I spent the rest of the month, returning to Georgia on April 5th and remaining at St. Mary's in that State until May 4th when I started for home and landed in Boston May 10th. A more detailed record of this trip will be found in another journal. Arriving at home late at night I woke early the next morning to hear the robins singing in the linden trees, the first robins I had heard this year. Everything was very backward in Mass. and ~~up~~ to the day of my arrival there had been seventy consecutive days of East wind, and chilly cloudy weather. But Sunday May 13 was warm and pleasant and since then the Wind has been mostly from the S. W. the thm. about 75° - 80° at noon and the vegetation and birds have come on apace. This afternoon I took my collecting pistol and with Will Stone drove up to the willows where I shot twelve birds, all common ones, for Allen, except a Sly. pusillus ♂.

May and June

Through the remainder of this month I remained in Cambridge but collected only little my time being otherwise taken up. June 16th I went to Concord Mass. where I passed the entire summer

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus migrates by night

1877.

Aug. 4 For several evenings past I have heard, after darkness had fairly set in, the peculiar notes of Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. Upon previous occasions I supposed that the birds were merely crying out from their perches but to-night, at about 10 P. M. I discovered by listening attentively that these birds when flying overhead and in every instance passing, as nearly as I could determine, to the Southward. They seemed to be flying low down and I heard at least four or five in the course of an hour. The only note uttered was the characteristic one of alarm, wurr-r-r-row. Warblers commenced migrating about the 1st of Aug. and every night since the frequency of their chirpings from the star-lit sky above, increases.

Aug 14 A Bubo virginianus hooted all night long on the "Great Meadows" below the house.

" 15 Listened to a Scops asio for a long time to-night and heard two notes entirely new to me: the first, we-ow, we-ow, we-ow; the second, a sound like the whistling of wings but louder fuller and less shrill. The bird frequently uttered the usual wailing cry and also the shorter krow, krow

Last D. aestiva Concord Mass. Last Chaetura pelagica
" Hir. horreorum Singular habits of " " "
1877. " Progne purpurea Falco columbarius & " "

Aug 26 Cloudy and foggy morning; trees dripping after yesterdays heavy rain. At least one hundred Chaetura pelagica circling rapidly about the tops of the elm trees in front of the Buttrick's, picking off some insect from the topmost leaves. Saw the last Dendroeca aestiva; — most of them left about a week since. Saw also the last Progne purpurea. A few swallows of the other species still with us. The Martins congregated in a vast body several days since lighting all over Mr. Hayes' barns and after spending nearly the whole day in marshalling their ranks, they disappeared.

Sept 13 Shot a female Pyranga rubra in the apple trees behind the Buttrick's house. I was in company with a lot of sparrows and a few Sargorhus fuscus. Saw several Contopus virens yesterday and shot two. This afternoon a vast body of Chimney Swifts appeared over the river and dozens stooping down swiftly skimmed over the water, occasionally dipping to the surface either to seize an insect or to drink, I could not decide which. While watching them I noticed a great commotion in their midst and a trim little Falco columbarius appeared with one of the Swifts dangling from his claws its long wings hanging conspicuously

1877.
(Sept. 13) downward. Associated with the Swifts were two Hirundo horrum the last of the season

8
Sept 23 While sitting of Mr. Nesbitts piazza in Cambridge this morning a fine Falco anatum appeared and skimmed swiftly past within thirty yards of us. Passing over an open field where some white hens were feeding it stooped four successive times at ~~them~~ different birds falling from a height of about thirty feet in an irregular spiral. Each time it protruded its talons as it neared its victim but each time it missed its aim and with a superb wheel rose again to its former elevation. It seemed to me to be simply playing - sweeping down from sheer wantonness, as I could see nothing to prevent its seizing its game had it so wished! The hens in every case seemed badly frightened and fluttered off in frantic haste. During the whole time that it was in sight I did not see it flap once all its motions though rapid being simply easy gliding turns. It was a small bird, I should think a male and looked very dark brown in color,

1877. Arrivals

Dendroica palmarum
" coronata
Anthus ludovicianus
Certhia americana
Pyrangra rubra
Sedicophagus pusillus
Junicalus purpureus

Sept 24 Drove up to Concord yesterday afternoon and packed up all my things. This morning started early and drove down to Cambridge. Saw quite a number of Dendroica palmarum et coronata for the first time.

Oct. 1 Took a ride with Will Stone this forenoon and saw a Pyrangra rubra in Mt. Auburn. It was with a large company of Bluebirds and Sparrows and frequently flew down to the ground as the former were doing to seize an insect. On one occasion I saw it pick up a large green worm or caterpillar. Saw also Certhia americana

" 2 While driving this afternoon in Brookline I saw a single Anthus ludovicianus

" 3 While driving in Brookline to day saw an immature Sphyrapicus varius

" 7 Heard a few Juncos this morning

" 11 A foggy morning with many birds flying over our garden. A small flock of Scol. ferruginea two Junicalus purpureus — I have seen this species at intervals since the summer — Lon. alboicollis singing faintly, and Sitta et Turdus migratorius carolling as in Spring

Hirundo bicolor

1877.
Wednesday
Oct. 10 While driving in Boat this morning saw a small company of Hirundo bicolor - perhaps six or eight - flying over the salt marshes

Trip to Mt. Carmel Illinois

1878.
April 13

Left Boston Saturday morning April 13th and arrived in Washington Sunday morning at 2 A. M. Spent Sunday & Monday with Henry W. Shushan and Monday night left the city with R. Ridgway on the 9.25 train on the B. & O. R. R. for Mt. Carmel. Tuesday morning we woke to find the train running into Grafton where we took breakfast. Thro' the forenoon we were passing swiftly thro' West Va. & I had a good view of my old collecting ground at Petroleum. Passed Parkersburg at 10 and thro' the remainder of the day we were running thro' Ohio. Saw a good many birds but none of especial interest. Doves (R. Cor.) were exceedingly abundant. The road passes thro' a country universally under cultivation & apparently exceedingly fertile. The beautiful Red bud tree was in full bloom everywhere & gave a very effective touch of color to the nearly leafless woods. At 7 P. M. we reached Cincinnati and took supper. The sun was just setting as we ran into the outskirts of the city and its ever present pall of dense black murky smoke hung over the great city. English Sparrows made discord on every side as at home. We soon left all this behind & shot away again into the night.

Wednesday April 17 We were roused from our berths at 2 A.M. to find that we had arrived at Vincennes. Here we disembarked & waited an hour for the freight train which was to convey us to Mt-Carmel. It was a lovely moonlight night—or rather morning and as we smoked a cigar on the platform of the depot a Whippoorwill sang in some woods beyond the meadow to the Eastward, and when the first streaks of dawn appeared a Bewicks Wren the first I had ever heard burst into song in a near door yard: more of him anon.

Soon we were again jolting away on the train & a little after sunrise we reached Mt-Carmel, a beautiful town built on the crest of a rolling prairie swell. After breakfast we started off for a reconnoissance in the woods. Took a nest of Collurio ludovicianus 3 fresh eggs. Shot both parents. Also Melanerpes, ov. Loph. Bestor Thrw, Cyanura cristata, fin; Cardinalis ov; Seiurus nov. ov; & several others. I saw my first Chondestes grammacus. It flew from the road & lit on a fence post uttering a feeble chip. Saw a few Dend. Caerulea, ov Myiarchus Crinitus, & countless Melanerpes. Also Vireo flavifrons & the characteristic resident species. Evidently the Warblers are not yet here. The dog wood (Cornus) is in full bloom & fills the woods with its showy masses.